Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-89-071
Friday
14 April 1989

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FBIS-NES-89-071 *14 April 1989*

CONTENTS

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Further on Talks With Lebanese Front in Kuwait 1
Shaykh Sabah Cited on Talks *[KUNA]* 1
Third Round of Talks Begins *[KUNA]* 1
Kuwaiti Minister 'Optimistic' *[KUNA]* 1

Palestinian Affairs

Khalaf Discusses Election Proposal, U.S. Stand *[Kuwait AL-QABAS 12 Apr]* 2
Faysal al-Husayni Views U.S. Proposals *[London AL-HAWADITH 31 Mar]* 5
PLO Radio Criticizes U.S. Report on Terrorism *[Baghdad Voice of the PLO]* 6
Abu Sharif on Israeli 'Terrorist Operation' *[MENA]* 7
Yasir 'Arafat Cancels Visit to Vienna *[Vienna KURIER 14 Apr]* 7
West Bank Figure Comments on 'Uprising' *[MENA]* 8

ARAB AFRICA

Egypt

Emergency Arab Summit Reportedly Set for Rabat *[MENA]* 9
23 Islamic Jihad Members Reportedly Arrested *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 9
Flour Supply To Increase 10 Percent for Ramadan *[Cairo Radio]* 9
Papers Welcome Change in U.S. Palestinian Stand *[MENA]* 9
Israeli Foreign Ministry Official Arrives *[MENA]* 9
Foreign Ministry Official Meets Palestinians *[MENA]* 9

Libya

MENA: Al-Qadhdhafi Escapes Assassination 16 Mar 10
JANA Marks Anniversary of U.S. Attack 10

Mauritania

Senegal Minister Makes 'Correction' on Clash *[Libreville Africa No 1]* 10

Sudan

SUNA: Army Denies Fall of Akobo to SPLA 11
Army Reports 'Withdrawal' From Akobo Post *[Omdurman Radio]* 11
Armed Forces Statement on Chadian Movement *[MENA]* 11
Rebels Say Army Units Refuse To Move South *[Radio SPLA]* 11
Rebels Prepare To Resume Shelling Juba *[Radio SPLA]* 12
Rebels Appeal to 'Patriotic Elements' in Army *[Radio SPLA]* 12
Constituent Assembly Elects New Speaker *[Omdurman Radio]* 12
Defense Minister Meets Egyptian Ambassador *[Omdurman Radio]* 12

IRAQ

New Talks With Iran To Begin 20 Apr in Geneva *[INA]* 13
Tariq 'Aziz, 'Arafat Discuss Developments 13 Apr *[INA]* 13

ISRAEL

'Secret Cable' on Shamir Plan Sent to Envoys *[THE JERUSALEM POST 14 Apr]* 14
'Official' Formulation of Plan *[THE JERUSALEM POST 14 Apr]* 14
Shamir: U.S. Trying To Win Over Media *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 14 Apr]* 15
Returns, Holds News Conference *[Jerusalem Radio]* 16
Peres Discusses Shamir Plan, Labor Party *[Jerusalem Radio]* 18
Shahal Presents Peace Plan, Views Labor Party *[THE JERUSALEM POST 14 Apr]* 21
Mitzna' on 'Serious' Incident at Nahhalin *[THE JERUSALEM POST 14 Apr]* 23
Red Cross Protests Deaths *[Jerusalem Radio]* 23
Frayj Protests 'Massacre' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 23
Bethlehem Council on 'Crime' *[Jerusalem International]* 24
Strikes Held in West Bank Towns Over Deaths *[Jerusalem Radio]* 24
Entrance to Jerusalem Temple Mount Restricted *[Jerusalem Radio]* 24
Police Deny Waqf Jurisdiction *[Jerusalem Radio]* 24
Polish Religious Affairs Minister Arrives *[Jerusalem Radio]* 25
Minister 'Optimistic' on Ties *[Jerusalem Radio]* 25
Argentina's Defense Minister Arrives for Talks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 25
Meets With Rabin *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 26
Argentina Looking at Kfir Jets *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
Minister on Relations *[HADASHOT 7 Apr]* 26

JORDAN

Foreign Minister Returns From Kuwait Meeting *[Amman Radio]* 28
Al-Rifa'i on Arab Cooperation Council Agreements *[Amman Radio]* 28
Energy Minister Denies Oil Discoveries *[Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM 6 Apr]* 28
AL-DUSTUR Hails IMF Approval of Measures *[11 Apr]* 29
U.S. Condemnation of Nahhalin 'Massacre' Urged *[AL-DUSTUR 14 Apr]* 29

LEBANON

3 Unidentified Vessels Reportedly Hit *[AFP]* 30
Italian Tanker Said Bombarded by Syrians *[VOL]* 30
Cypriot-Registered Ship Hit; Sailor Killed *[AFP]* 30
Shaykh Sabah Urges 'Non-Israeli Forces' Pullout *[VOL]* 30
West Beirut Army Command Issues Communique *[VOM]* 31
Christian Shelling Reaches Al-Biqa'; 9 Killed *[Voice of National Resistance]* 31
Syrian Convoy Said Destroyed by Lebanese Army *[RFL]* 31
Syrians Continue Attacks With Rocket Launchers *[VOL]* 31
15 Dead, 40 Injured in Intensive Bombardment *[VOL]* 31
Syrian 'Desertions,' 'Mutinies' Reported *[RFL]* 32
Fighting in Beirut; Casualty Toll Updated *[VOL]* 33
AFP Updates Casualties; Phone Lines May Be Cut 33
Guarded Calm Prevails; Some Shelling Noted *[Beirut Radio]* 33
Injured Syrians Evacuated to AUB Hospital *[VOL]* 33
AUB Denies Report *[VOM]* 33
Arab Committee Call for Cease-Fire Viewed *[RFL]* 34
PSP Proposes Central Security Committee Meeting *[VOM]* 34
Amal, PSP on Reviving Security Committee Tasks *[VOM]* 34
Michel 'Awn on Syrian Forces' Involvement *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 10 Apr]* 34
U.S. Envoys Reportedly Rebut 'Awn Claims *[London AL-MAJALLAH 29 Mar-3 Apr]* 37
Iraq's Hamdun Reportedly Admits Supplying Arms *[Beirut Radio]* 37

SYRIA

Reportage on Visit by Algerian Foreign Minister 38
Arrives 12 Apr *[Damascus Radio]* 38
Received by Al-Shar' *[Damascus Radio]* 38
Delivers Message to Al-Asad *[SANA]* 38
Departs 14 Apr *[Damascus Radio]* 38

Al-Asad Receives Khalil al-Wazir's Widow 13 Apr *[Damascus TV]* 38
Khaddam Receives Lebanese Parliament Speaker *[Damascus Radio]* 38
European Troika Arrives in Damascus, Begins Talks *[Radio Monte Carlo]* 38
Troika Leaves Damascus *[Radio Monte Carlo]* 39
Mitterrand Remarks Viewed as 'First Step' *[Damascus Radio]* 39
Commentary Reiterates Al-Asad Stand on Conference *[Damascus Radio]* 40
SANA: Authorities Seize Drugs in Tartus Port 40

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Najibullah Addresses Power Workers 13 Apr *[Kabul Radio]* 41
Najibullah Supports Dialogue To Establish Peace *[Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO 11 Apr]* 45
Further on Visit of Soviet Republics Delegation 47
Technical Protocol Signed *[BAKHTAR]* 47
Delegation Departs 14 Apr *[BAKHTAR]* 47
Foreign Ministry Spokesman on UN Border Posts *[Kabul Radio]* 47
Soviet Convoy Battles Way Into Kabul *[AFP]* 47
Muajhidin Pressure on Jalalabad, Khowst Continues *[Islamabad Radio]* 48
'Fierce Fighting' West of City *[Islamabad Radio]* 48
Violations of Ramadan Cease-Fire Reported *[Kabul Radio]* 48
Notices 401-402 Handed Over to UN Mission *[Kabul Radio]* 49

Bangladesh

Planning Minister Returns From Visit to China *[Dhaka International]* 49

India

Spokesman on Nepal's Increase in Import Duties *[Delhi Radio]* 49
Statement on Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, USSR *[ISI]* 49
Sharma Hosts Banquet for Polish Vice President *[Delhi Radio]* 50
Joint Ventures Agreement Signed With Cyprus *[Delhi Radio]* 50
President Meets SRV General Vo Nguyen Giap *[Delhi TV]* 50
'Terrorists' Bomb Railway Track in Amritsar *[Delhi Radio]* 50
Shipyard Builds First Patrol Vessels for Navy *[Delhi Radio]* 50
Correction to President Calls Visit 'Successful' 51

Iran

Khamene'i Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons *[Tehran Radio]* 51
Konarev To Discuss Majlis Speaker's Moscow Visit *[IRNA]* 51
Editorial Examines Montazeri's Resignation *[KEYHAN HAVAI 5 Apr]* 52
RESALAT Views Montazeri's Resignation *[29 Mar]* 53
JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI on Afghanistan *[IRNA]* 54
Government Denounces Maronite Shelling in Lebanon *[IRNA]* 54
Tehran TV Notes Damage to Flooded Sistan Areas 54
Leaders Said Trying To Mend Ties With West *[Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio]* 55

Nepal

Agreement Signed With Tibet for Oil, Salt Supplies *[Kathmandu International]* 55

Pakistan

China To Cooperate in Minerals Exploitation *[Islamabad Radio]* 55
3 Killed by 'Indiscriminate Firing' in Larkana *[Islamabad Radio]* 55

Sri Lanka

Further on Unilateral Cease-Fire, Car Bombing 56
President Offers Talks *[AFP]* 56
LTTE, Other Parties Invited *[Colombo Radio]* 56
67 Die During 'Cease-Fire' *[AFP]* 56
Foreign Secretary in New Delhi for Consultations *[Delhi Radio]* 57

Inter-Arab Affairs

Further on Talks With Lebanese Front in Kuwait

Shaykh Sabah Cited on Talks

LD1304150889 Kuwait KUNA in English 1310 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] Kuwait, April 13 (KUNA) - The Arab League good offices committee on the Lebanese crisis, currently in session here, ended a second round of talks with representatives of the Christian Lebanese Front.

The committee's chairman, Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, told reporters that they exchanged views on means of finding an acceptable settlement and conceded that a "minor" disagreement has surfaced during discussion, but did not elaborate.

Shaykh Sabah condemned the renewal of shelling in Beirut, saying "We regret that shells began to slam into both sectors of Beirut as the Lebanese Front delegation arrived in Kuwait.

"We condemn this act from whatever party and I hope it will not recur because this will hamper the work of the Arab six-member committee," Shaykh Sabah said.

Asked on the withdrawal of foreign troops from Lebanon, Shaykh Sabah said "All are demand [word indistinct] the withdrawal of Israel and others from Lebanon. Give us a chance to prepare the final working paper on the solution."

Responding to a question on his assessment of the outcome of the committee's encounters with various Lebanese factions he said "evaluation will be carried out when we finish our consultations. There will be a third session in the evening and we hope to reach something acceptable to all parties."

Shaykh Sabah said the committee had put forward to the delegation preliminary conceptions "without facing any major disagreement while the delegation presented the Front's opinion.

Asked on the committee's role in stabilizing security situation in that war-torn country, Shaykh Sabah made it clear that "we are a political committee and not a security one but nevertheless we denounced the renewal of shelling."

Sources close to the committee told KUNA that they are optimistic of the committee's encounter with the Lebanese Front despite frequent heated debate, saying there were many points of congruency.

Phalangist leader George Sa'adah who leads the Front's delegation said an atmosphere of openness prevailed in the meeting and that they were able to clarify the Front's position.

"Our motto is: The committee should listen to us and not hear about us because what it hears from us is the truth and what others say about is distorted," Sa'adah said.

Asked on Lebanese presidential elections, Sa'adah said elections was the access to solving the Lebanese crisis. "Without electing a president for the Republic we can not do anything whether it is reformatory or else," he said.

"Reforms will only be achieved in the existence of constitutional institutions including the Presidency of the Republic. Without a legal government and without parliamentary elections we can not dare to do anything," Sa'adah added.

Third Round of Talks Begins

LD1304200589 Kuwait KUNA in English 1924 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] Kuwait, April 13 (KUNA)—A third round of talks opened here tonight between the Arab League good offices committee on Lebanon and Christian Lebanese leaders in the quest for a peaceful settlement of the Lebanese crisis.

Sources of the committee, chaired by Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, expected tonight's session to cap this latest phase of talks with Christian political leaders.

The sources said the committee would then draft a final report projecting the way out of Lebanon's 15-year-old civil war.

Earlier this evening, the Arab League panel had held a meeting attended by experts, political and legal, during which they examined the outcome of two rounds of talks with leaders of the Lebanese Front.

Kuwaiti Minister 'Optimistic'

LD1404094389 Kuwait KUNA in English 0810 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] Kuwait, April 14 (KUNA)—Arab League Committee on Lebanon, ending two days of talks here with leaders of Lebanese Christian-cum-political parties on how to end Lebanon's crisis, has decided to continue its contacts with other Lebanese [words indistinct] in search of a solution.

The committee head, Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, told reporters after the end of talks here last night he was optimistic about the outcome of the meetings with the Lebanese Christian leaders and representatives.

He also hoped that the warring groups in Lebanon would this time heed the ceasefire call he had made earlier last night and that the truce would hold to allow room for political efforts to clear the way for a settlement.

He said he made his ceasefire call after contacting Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and head of the Lebanese interim military government Gen. Michael 'Awn.

Other parties could not be reached over the telephone, Shaykh Sabah said and added that he had received reassurances that the ceasefire would be respected.

The talks in Kuwait grouped the league's six-minister committee with leaders of the Lebanese Christian Phalangist and liberal parties.

Shaykh Sabah, Arab League chief Chedli Klibi and five other Arab ministers began their contacts with Lebanese leaders last December when they were mandated to do so by the league's ministerial council.

Shaykh Sabah stressed that the committee will continue to try to bring warring Lebanese factions to the negotiating table and to review with them the results of five rounds of talks with Lebanese political and spiritual leaders.

The talks here Thursday coincided with artillery duels between East and West Beirut where fighting reportedly left at least 17 people killed.

Meanwhile, well-placed source told KUNA here that all parties to the Lebanese crisis and Syria want the Arab League committee on Lebanon to keep up its mission.

The sources expected the panel to resume its contacts with other Lebanese [word indistinct] before the end of the month. Such future talks could possibly involve leaders that had been approached by the committee before, they added.

The source said the continued fighting between mainly Muslim West Beirut and the Christian controlled eastern sector of the capital did not, and will not, affect the conviction of all Lebanese parties that a political settlement must continue to be sought.

Palestinian Affairs

Khalaf Discusses Election Proposal, U.S. Stand

JN1304174489 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 12 Apr 89 p 18

[Interview with Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf by Najib Furayji in Tunis; date not given]

[Text] [Furayji] What is your opinion of the proposal Shamir presented to the U.S. Administration calling for elections in the occupied territory and halting the intifadah [uprising]?

[Khalaf] The proposals Shamir carried to America are an extension of statements made by Shamir and many Israeli leaders. I believe that these statements carry negative, not positive, connotations. There is nothing new in these proposals; they are an expression of the inability of Israel's leaders to comprehend the present stage as well as what the Palestinians presented at the Palestine National Council [PNC] session and later.

Israel's leaders are still living in the past as if there were no intifadah, nor revolution, nor PNC political and radical resolutions on the issue of peace in the Middle East and on the Palestine question. Any reading of Shamir's ideas will find that there is nothing in them.

The issue of elections is old. Elections were held in 1967. Those who won in these elections were moved and deported from the occupied territory. Attempts were made to kill some of them, and the rest were removed from their posts. The 1967 experiment is still in front of us.

Therefore, we say that we welcome the elections, but not under occupation. We welcome elections—inside and outside—under UN supervision. However, holding elections under the occupation as an excuse for a peace initiative is a negative and incorrect thing.

[Furayji] Do you believe that the Bush administration will be persuaded by Shamir's plan or idea?

[Khalaf] Frankly, I do not know. However, the statements made by Bush and Baker recently after President Mubarak's visit [to the United States] were relatively positive compared to the past. I do not believe that the U.S. Administration will accept these proposals as a basis for a peace initiative if it is serious in reaching a solution to the Middle East issue.

In my opinion, Shamir's proposals on the elections and autonomy are dark ideas that do not have any genuine political content or any response to the Palestinian peace initiative.

[Furayji] Have you communicated a message to Bush through President Husni Mubarak, and what is its content?

[Khalaf] There was no message in the real sense of the word. However, a meeting took place in Cairo among brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], King Husayn, and President Mubarak. Brother Abu 'Ammar explained what took place during the meeting with the American ambassador [in Tunis]. He also explained our Palestinian ideas.

A committee was formed with regard to the Palestinian ideas to be carried by President Mubarak. An agreement was reached that after President Mubarak's return another meeting will be held to assess Mubarak's visit so that King Husayn will carry new ideas to Washington.

[Furayji] What has been reached by the two rounds of American-Palestinian talks, and do you believe that the level of dialogue will be upgraded in the next round?

[Khalaf] The important thing that took place in the dialogue is the exchange of essential ideas and a presentation of the Palestinian view on the future solution. This Palestinian view is established on realistic grounds based on the PNC resolutions. We, the Palestinians, presented everything we can for the sake of the peace process. The ball now is in the Israeli court. America should compare what the Palestinians have presented, which is a positive thing, with what Israel has presented, which is a negative thing.

On this basis, America should adopt its stand. We consider the dialogue with the United States, particularly the second round, positive and constructive. We hope that the dialogue will develop in terms of form, level, and content so that America will compare what we, the Palestinians, present with what Israel presents.

[Furayji] What is the importance of the visits of King Husayn and President Mubarak to Washington to the determination of the U.S. plan on the Middle East?

[Khalaf] I believe that these meetings are definitely important. True, this administration is an extension of the previous one, but President Bush is different from Vice President Bush. Bush now controls the decision-making. Therefore, it is very useful to meet with King Husayn and President Mubarak and to listen to them and to meet with the Palestinians' ideas through the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue. This will form certain convictions for President Bush, especially when he listens to the Israeli side.

I am certain that, if the Americans want to pursue a new policy in the Middle East, it must based on neutrality and must not be biased toward any side. We do not ask for bias toward us, and we do not have illusions that the United States will one day go against Israel and support the Arabs or us. Those are not our ambitions, and this is not what we ask. What we ask is the neutrality of the U.S. stand. For this neutrality to occur, there must be interaction with Arab and Palestinian ideas.

[Furayji] Let us return to our Arab situations and the Palestinian revolution's relations with Arab sides. How do you assess Palestinian-Syrian relations?

[Khalaf] There are differences between us and Syria. These differences are deep and their objectives are far, but, in spite of this, we believe in positiveness. There are Arab attempts to mend the Palestinian-Syrian rupture, and there are Soviet attempts. We support these attempts. We will be positive, although these meetings are not based on a return to the past or a return to the political line. [sentence as published]

These meetings will give the Syrians the right to ask for clarification of any opinion, and we will have the right to say our opinion. We want a just and comprehensive settlement for the Middle East question that does not exclude any party. We want the Golan as much as we want the West Bank and Gaza and any Palestinian territory. We want the occupied territories in Lebanon as much as we want Jerusalem. This is our position, and we are against any bilateral solutions or separate deals.

We support the international conference in which negotiations are conducted to achieve peace and the Palestinian people's national rights. On this, we differ with Syria. Whether there are differences, or whether there is flexibility in our moves and meetings with the Israelis in order to convince them of our rights, this is something to do with our strategy and tactics, and nobody has the right to intervene in the way we address our enemy or the Israelis. This is our job, and not that of others.

On this basis, we are prepared for any dialogue with Syria. However, up to now, we have differences with Syria and we adhere to our stand. We are nationalist people, and we will not allow anyone to teach us lessons in nationalism, dignity, or national honor.

[Furayji] Can it be said that you—the PLO leadership—very recently managed to prevent certain dissident Palestinian factions from proclaiming the formation of an alternative PLO that supported Syria?

[Khalaf] I believe that in all of these attempts—since the dissident movement that took place in Fatah and reached the PLO in 1983 and the current attempts—everyone tries, and believes, that when it comes to the PLO, one can open a new shop in the Palestinian arena and call it the PLO. However, in reality, this is not an easy thing to do.

The Palestinian people are rallying around the PLO because of the 25-year legacy of struggle waged by the current PLO leadership. The struggle that has been waged by the Palestinian people has given this people the ability to distinguish between their real leadership and those linked to intelligence organs.

Hence, we have never been concerned about these allegations. We know that these allegations are empty balloons launched in a bid to fool public opinion into believing that it is possible to create a new PLO and that the failure to bring this organization into existence is motivated by goodwill on the part of some parties. The issue has nothing to do with goodwill. It is linked to the inability to produce a new PLO, simply because the PLO is not mere persons.

No, it comprises the Fatah movement, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], the [Palestinian] Communist Party, the Arab Liberation Front, and the

Palestine Liberation Front. These organizations exist and have a history. Nobody can bypass this history. Therefore, we face these allegations with cool nerves and without any emotions.

[Furayji] Very heated debates were exchanged at the PLO Central Council meetings in Tunis. Information on the quarrels witnessed among the Palestinian leaders was leaked. Has Palestinian unity emerged intact and strong this time?

[Khalaf] I believe that the atmosphere was really heated when some topics were debated. However, the overall picture was positive, as all PLO Central Council members, be they faction members or independents, voiced their opinions frankly. I believe that this is the Palestinian democracy that enables everybody to express his opinion in all seriousness and to see his opinion debated and discussed.

Hence, I believe that the meetings were good and positive despite the heated atmosphere that prevailed during these meetings. Besides, it is natural for a heated atmosphere to prevail when there are differences of opinion. However, the PLO Central Council finally concluded its meetings and adopted resolutions that unanimously supported the Palestinian political moves and the Palestinian peace offensive. Moreover, bilateral meetings were held between Fatah and the DFLP and also between Fatah and the Communist Party.

These meetings, which were held after the conclusion of the council meetings, also contributed to the approximation of views. It has been agreed that there will be continuous meetings with these parties so that we will continue to discuss things with each other.

[Furayji] Israel says that the PLO has massed 5,000 fedayeen in southern Lebanon to strike at Israel. How true is this?

[Khalaf] Israel is responsible for supplying this figure. As for us, we say that there is a Lebanese-Palestinian revolutionary status in southern Lebanon against the Israeli occupation of a part of Lebanese territory. However, the numbers and figures are not important. We consider all of our people to be revolutionaries. We have 400,000 male and female Palestinians in Lebanon, not just 5,000. All of them are ready to make sacrifices and fight Israel if it does not respond favorably to calls for peace.

I am certain that Israel will create for itself a status of constant animosity that will be released through various forms of struggle, including armed struggle and an escalation of the intifadah. Hence, we do not elaborate or comment on figures and words. What we can say is that there are more than 5,000 fighters and that there is a revolutionary situation.

Besides, we have not told anyone that we have ceased the armed struggle. There has never been anyone who threw away all his cards before obtaining anything. What are we to do in the face of the intransigence being displayed by Israel and Shamir? It is true that we will not back down from our peace line. However, at the same time we must be ready for all eventualities and possibilities.

[Furayji] Does this position prove that there is a Palestinian-Iraqi alliance with Michel 'Awn aimed at permitting the PLO to restore military positions in Lebanon?

[Khalaf] We are with all of Lebanon. We do not and will never support one party against another. All of our positions are among the Islamic and nationalist positions. We have our own opinion on the Lebanese events. Opening rocket fire and gunfire will not be beneficial. It is time all the Lebanese forces understood that arms, guns, and rockets will only inflict further casualties and aggravate the mutual hatred and mistrust.

The solution is in the hands of the Lebanese, and I believe that the leaders on both sides are responsible for what is happening there, because each side is trying to lean on an external party that has no interest in Lebanon's calm and stability. The Lebanese must make a decision to tell everyone to stop meddling in their affairs. They should effect understanding among themselves.

[Furayji] What is the role of the six-member committee in this regard?

[Khalaf] The committee's moves have been contrary to my expectations. I thought it would just issue a statement and dissolve. However, it seems to be a dynamic committee, pursuing its tasks. It is the only hope. If we lose hope in Arab mediation, the Lebanese situation will face a tragic end and a great impasse. We support the six-member committee.

In my opinion, three parties are capable of helping the Lebanese negotiate a settlement: Syria, Iraq, and the PLO. We are ready to participate in any activity or effort that the six-member committee requires of us.

[Furayji] Is it true that the PLO has accepted the principle of U.S.-USSR patronage to resolve the Middle East problem without the participation of the other permanent members of the UN Security Council?

[Khalaf] Why only Soviets and Americans? Why not Europeans, Chinese, and all the UN Security Council members? Anyone who wants real peace requires international guarantees. It would be better if the international conference is held in the United Nations because it is better for peace to be a lasting peace, guaranteed by the largest possible number of states.

An international conference with the participation of all states is a stronger conference. We trust the USSR, and we trust the United States if it takes a new path. But why not the other parties in the Security Council, particularly if they have an interest in the Middle East peace settlement?

[Furayji] How do you view President Mubarak's opinion that there is no need for the preparatory committee?

[Khalaf] In the final analysis, we say that this is President Mubarak's opinion. Our opinion—and the Americans and the Soviets hold the same view—is that preparations for the international conference will avoid making it just a jump in the air. There can be no conference without meetings among the parties concerned to discuss difficult questions. This is a hundred times better than a conference without preparation, a conference with no clear arrangements, tasks, or powers.

[Furayji] Is it true that Abu 'Ammar will chair the meetings of the six-member committee on the intifadah during its visit to Arab countries?

[Khalaf] This is just a news item, and the Palestinian leadership has not made a decision on this issue.

[Furayji] Is there an Arab consensus on this subject?

[Khalaf] These reports can be described as media stories rather than true events. They are not true. Our condition that the PLO should be present in meetings with the United States still stands. We also demanded a Palestinian presence in meetings with Europe in accordance with the level of participation. If it is a ministerial level we have a foreign minister, and if it is on the ambassadorial level we have our representatives who should attend such meetings.

Faysal al-Husayni Views U.S. Proposals

PM0404091689 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 31 Mar 89 pp 30-32

[Interview with Faysal al-Husayni, director of Jerusalem's Arab Studies Society, by Raghidah Dirgham in Washington; date not given]

[Excerpts] AL-HAWADITH: Do you agree with the U.S. proposal for mutual steps to be taken by Israel and yourselves to alleviate the tension and violence?

Al-Husayni: I consider the U.S. proposals unfair and imbalanced, and I do not think they will lead to any result. They are asking the Israelis to cease, reduce, or limit some of their measures, while asking the Palestinians to stop all the activities of the intifadah [uprising], and that is out of the question. The intifadah erupted, not because of detentions or the closure of schools, but to end the occupation. So the request to end the intifadah must be met with a request to end the occupation.

AL-HAWADITH: But you told the press that you were ready to stop the violence and stone throwing if Israel took certain measures, such as a halt on its demolition of homes, on its policy of expulsion, and so on.

Al-Husayni: What I said was that violence as such is not an objective, but a means of achieving certain political objectives. So if Israel took certain steps, it would create new conditions and prompt us to respond with similar steps.

Any step Israel takes will be met with a step on our part. A minor step will be met with a minor step. A major step will be met with a major step. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: When will you be ready to stop the stonethrowing? In return for what Israeli measures?

Al-Husayni: If Israel stops using violence against us, the use of violence against it can then be reduced to minimum. If the Israelis move toward talks with the PLO, through such talks acts such as stone throwing can be halted, that is quite possible, but it does not mean that the intifadah itself would stop. The intifadah's activities are continuing and will continue until the Palestinian state is established.

AL-HAWADITH: By "activities" do you mean civil disobedience?

AL-Husayni: Civil disobedience will continue. Strikes and mass demonstrations—without stone throwing—can also continue. Some aspects, such as the throwing of Molotov cocktails and stones, can only be stopped when we see that advanced political steps, such as the initiation of negotiations or an international conference, are taken.

AL-HAWADITH: You said that a minor step by Israel would be met with a similar step by the Palestinians, and a major step would be met with a major step. What do you mean in practice? Give us an example of a minor or major Israeli step and the nature of a similar Palestinian step.

Al-Husayni: Let us say, for instance, an end to the destruction of homes and firing on demonstrators. The response would be just to stage huge demonstrations without any clashes, unless confronted. The demonstrations staged in the various areas were almost surrounded by soldiers but no stones were used.

This could continue in order to neutralize soldiers in the streets, prevent them from taking any action, and control the situation, despite the troops' presence. All this can be done, insofar as that if the other side stops using bullets, stones will not necessarily be used.

AL-HAWADITH: Your reactions differ from those of some PLO officials. When the U.S. proposals were published in the press, they rejected them completely, but you are leaving the door open! Why this contrast?

Al-Husayni: I do not believe there is any contrast. I have said that the U.S. proposals are unacceptable in this form, because two standards are used. They are unbalanced and unfair. The fact remains that violence as such has never been an objective.

Stones as such are not an objective; they are used to achieve certain political objectives. When we see that those objectives are being attained or attainable, then we can reduce or eliminate stone throwing. It is a political decision that can be taken at any time.

AL-HAWADITH: This is the step-by-step method that the George Bush administration talks about. You seem to agree with this method. Is this impression correct?

Al-Husayni: As I said earlier, the form proposed is unacceptable, because it is unbalanced and unfair. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: There is talk about elections in the West Bank and Gaza. What form of elections do you support?

Al-Husayni: As a basic principle, we do not reject the elections. But any elections must be held on acceptable terms and must have a clear objective. The elections proposed by the Israelis are entirely unacceptable, because they would be held at gunpoint under the occupation. And, as proposed in the Yitzhaq Rabin plan, the elections are aimed at creating a leadership inside to constitute a force capable of negotiating with Israel from inside the occupied territories. Such elections regard the Palestinians outside as refugees whose problem must be resolved through a conference—an idea that is totally rejected. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: The United States is asking Yasir 'Arafat to allow negotiators from the West Bank and Gaza to negotiate transitional arrangements. Do you want 'Arafat to respond to that request?

Al-Husayni: The PLO is the entity responsible for the Palestinian people and is the Palestinian people's leader. It is the PLO that determines who will and will not negotiate. It is the PLO that chooses its negotiators.

AL-HAWADITH: Would you like the PLO or 'Arafat to agree to this?

Al-Husayni: We want nothing. We fully realize that the Palestinian leadership is the only entity qualified to choose the right time for negotiations and to form the right delegation in a manner that will lead to the attainment of the Palestinian people's unity and objectives.

Above all, we reject anyone's imposition on the PLO of negotiators or of their place of residence. This is a matter for the PLO, and it is capable of making such decisions itself.

AL-HAWADITH: The U.S. proposal does not negate the PLO role. The proposal is that 'Arafat agree to negotiators clearly affiliated with the PLO negotiating the transitional preparations during the confidence-building process, provided that the PLO plays a direct part in negotiations on the eventual solution. It was on that basis that I asked you for your opinion of the formula.

Al-Husayni: I believe that instead of putting pressure on the PLO to form a delegation acceptable to Israel, the United States should put pressure on Israel to talk with the PLO directly. I see no sense in the transitional period they are talking about now. And I do not see why the Palestinians should be required to put pressure on the PLO to accept one step or another. We believe that the things that the PLO is being asked to do are exaggerated and unjust. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Do you have any reservations about proposals at the Israeli level, which seem to have received U.S. approval and which the Soviet Union is willing to accept: namely, that the international conference be under U.S.-Soviet auspices, rather than those of the Security Council's five permanent member states?

Al-Husayni: The present view is that the best solution can be achieved via an international conference attended by Europe as well. Perhaps there are other proposals, but we believe that the preferred formula is an international conference attended by the other major powers and Europe. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: In your view, has Jordan a role to play in the transitional stage in the West Bank?

Al-Husayni: Jordan is one of the frontline states and must be involved in the international conference. But I do not believe that Jordan has any role inside the occupied Palestinian areas, except by virtue of its position as a frontline state. It must back the Palestinian struggle, just as the other Arab states do.

AL-HAWADITH: Does the deadlock in Syrian-PLO relations affect Palestinian political aspirations?

Al-Husayni: The absence of accord and harmony between Syria and the PLO is not a good thing. We hope that Syria will coordinate its stances with the PLO and that the disagreement will end.

PLO Radio Criticizes U.S. Report on Terrorism

JN1304194489 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1654 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brothers: In their pamphlet published the day before yesterday, the U.S. information offices [makatib al-i'lam al-amrikiyah] distributed a report on international terrorism, which was drafted by the U.S. Department of State and presented to Congress.

The report reaches a strange conclusion. That conclusion is that the Palestinian intifadah [uprising] in general is civil disobedience that includes some elements of terrorism in certain events.

The political editor of the Palestine news agency, WAFA, commented by saying:

We were surprised that such a term was used in the text about terrorism in the first place. We considered this a bad indication and a sign of deliberate ill intent on the part of the U.S. Department of State.

However, what made us more surprised and disappointed is that the respectable report on terrorism, which was issued by the U.S. Department of State and circulated by the U.S. information centers in the world, does not include even one sentence about Israeli terrorism, whether daily state terrorism or the terrorism of fanatical individuals among the arrogant settlers who murder the Palestinian for being Palestinian.

This means that the U.S. Administration, which, since the Reagan era, has escalated the talk about human rights and considered these rights its own cause, does not consider Israel's daily aggression against the Palestinian people and its terrorist acts against and liquidation of them as any terrorism that should be met with denunciation by the superpower.

It is U.S. wrongdoing which, it seems, is still valid at the beginning of President Bush's era—unless we assume that there are Zionist employees in the U.S. Department of State who make things according to their whims.

However, we are not much inclined toward this assumption, particularly after the Bush-Shamir meeting and after the great deal of false charges that aim to practice information terrorism against the PLO and the intifadah, which practices a legitimate and asserted right of the basic rights of humanity and which resists the terrorist war of annihilation with stones and bare chests.

Abu Sharif on Israeli 'Terrorist Operation'

NC1304163989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1540 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] Cairo, 13 Apr (MENA)—Bassam Abu Sharif, press adviser to Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat, has announced that since this morning Bethlehem and its surrounding camps, particularly the 'Aydah Camp and Nahhalin Village, have been the target of the fiercest organized terrorist operation ever carried out by the Israeli occupation troops against the Palestinian citizens.

At a news conference in Cairo today, Abu Sharif said that as a result of the inhuman Israeli practices in Bethlehem, eight citizens have been martyred as of this afternoon, and many others have been wounded in Nahhalin. He added that the citizens could not get the injured to hospitals, and this may endanger their lives.

Abu Sharif, who is visiting Cairo, pointed out that what had taken place in Bethlehem represented the second crime committed since Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's return and his meeting with U.S. President George Bush. This, he added, shows that the Palestinians cannot be secure under the occupation and that an international force is urgently needed to protect the Palestinian citizens from Israeli terrorism.

Bassam Abu Sharif called on U.S. President George Bush and the international community represented by the UN secretary general and the UN Security Council to take urgent, practical steps to end terrorism and to terminate the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories.

The Palestinian official said we believe that U.S. President Bush's emphasis on the need to end the occupation is required today more than ever, and we call on him to take practical steps to protect the Palestinians who, despite all his endeavors, are being subjected to terrorism. He asserted that Shamir's policy does not pursue peace but instead is expansive, criminal, and tries to keep the Palestinians under occupation.

Commenting on Shamir's call for elections in the occupied territories, Abu Sharif said the PLO supports the idea of elections. However, he stressed, these elections must be free and should be run in a democratic environment; namely, without occupation. He stressed that elections under occupation are rejected.

Commenting on Syrian-Palestinian relations, Abu Sharif said there is nothing new on the horizon so far.

Responding to a question on Yasir 'Arafat's visit to France, Abu Sharif pointed out that no date has been set for the visit yet, adding that it will take place soon.

Touching on the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, Abu Sharif expressed the belief that it was serious and positive, saying that such a dialogue is directly helping to demonstrate the PLO's seriousness about and its responsible outlook on the peace process in the Middle East. He expressed the hope that the United States will take practical steps to end the occupation, which is a just Palestinian demand.

Yasir 'Arafat Cancels Visit to Vienna

AU1404090089 Vienna KURIER in German 14 Apr 89 p 3

[Unattributed report: "'Arafat Cancels Vienna Visit"]

[Text] PLO chief 'Arafat has canceled his visit to Vienna scheduled to take place today, Friday [14 April]. According to the chief of the Vienna PLO bureau, Da'ud Barakat, the Israeli-Palestinian parliamentarian meeting has also been "postponed for a long time" and will be held at a different place.

Instead of going to Vienna, 'Arafat will now go to Amman for a meeting of three, including himself, Jordan's King Husayn, and Egypt's President Mubarak. The king will fly to Washington next week.

According to reports on Thursday [13 April], a probable reason for the postponement of the parliamentarian meeting was disagreement on a joint statement of the two delegations.

The U.S. Administration stated on Thursday that in the future it will not support Israel's policy on settlements in the occupied territories. When the army rounded up people in the West Bank, several more Arabs were killed.

West Bank Figure Comments on 'Uprising'
NC1004160889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1310 GMT 10 Apr 89

[Text] Cairo, 10 Apr (MENA)—Sa'id Kan'an, a Palestinian leader in the occupied territories, who is currently visiting Cairo, praised Egypt's role, under its prudent leadership, in supporting the Palestinian cause on all levels. He said that, as they struggle for their independence, the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories feel that Egypt, under the leadership of President Husni Mubarak, represents a genuine support for their struggle, which is apparent in the popular intifadah [uprising].

In an exclusive interview with MENA, Kan'an said: In the occupied territories, as we follow Egypt's stands we are happy with the explicit and decisive Egyptian action in support of the Palestinian issue and Palestinian leadership. Kan'an praised President Mubarak's policy on the Palestinian people's struggle in the occupied land, describing Mubarak as a wise man who is working diligently and silently for the sake of Arab unity, and for the Palestinian cause in particular, as well as for Arab issues in general.

He said that the Palestinian people in the occupied territories had followed President Mubarak's recent visit to the United States, noting that Mubarak was sincere and honest in raising the Palestinian issue with Congress and before U.S. public opinion. He disclosed that, during his stay in Cairo, he will meet with Egyptian officials to exchange views on developments in the Palestinian issue.

Kan'an asserted that the Palestinian people in the occupied land are determined to continue the intifadah until independence has been achieved, and that their readiness for sacrifice is beyond all imagination. He pointed out that the Palestinian intifadah has turned the situation in Israel upside down and induced political, economic, and social changes.

He added that the intifadah is continuing and escalating day after day, despite the mounting Israeli repression and material losses, the price of which is being paid by the Palestinian people. He noted that the intifadah has made it clear that there will be no return to the conditions that existed before 8 December 1987.

He asserted that the Palestinian people extend their hand for a genuine peace, supported by their brothers in the Arab countries, especially in the big sister Egypt, which carries real weight with regard to the Palestinian issue. He said that the intifadah has given the PLO the confidence to launch a peace initiative after it had created true forces for peace and shaken the political entity in Israel.

Kan'an disclosed that the number of martyrs of the intifadah has so far reached approximately 600, in addition to tens of thousands of wounded and detained people.

Sa'id Kan'an arrived in Cairo from the occupied territories yesterday for a visit, during which he will confer with several Egyptian officials.

Egypt

Emergency Arab Summit Reportedly Set for Rabat

NC1404133689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1305 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] Cairo, 14 Apr (MENA)—The Egyptian weekly magazine 'UKTUBAR reports that consultations by King Hassan II of Morocco with a number of Arab countries have resulted in agreement on convening an emergency Arab summit conference in Rabat. The conference will be held after the blessed 'Id al-Fitr [6 or 7 May].

In its edition to be published on Sunday, the magazine says that Egypt will be invited to attend the conference. High on the agenda will be the recent developments in the Middle East problem and the Lebanese issue.

23 Islamic Jihad Members Reportedly Arrested

NC1404071789 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] The Egyptian regime's security forces have arrested 23 Islamic Jihad members in Al-Fayyum on charges of hurling two Molotov cocktails into an express train in the area.

Flour Supply To Increase 10 Percent for Ramadan

NC1404072989 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0520 GMT 14 Apr 89

[From the Press Review]

[Text] According to the AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper, the Ministry of Supply and Internal Trade has decided to increase the supply of flour by 10 percent to traditional bakeries producing baladi bread during the month of Ramadan. The flour supply to mechanized and half-mechanized bakeries will be increased by 50 percent to reach a total of 85,000 tons.

Papers Welcome Change in U.S. Palestinian Stand

NC1404055889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2205 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Excerpts] Cairo, 13 Apr (MENA)—The newspapers AL-AHRAM and AL-AKHBAR welcome the beginning of a change in the U.S. attitude toward the Palestinian intifadah [uprising] in the occupied territories and the Palestinian people's rights.

In editorials appearing in their Friday editions, the two papers stress the importance of the talks that King Husayn of Jordan will hold in Washington shortly and that follow the summit he held with President Husni Mubarak in Amman yesterday. King Husayn's talks in Washington will also complement the discussions that President Mubarak recently conducted in Washington with President George Bush.

AL-AKHBAR describes the report issued by the U.S. State Department, in which it holds that the Palestinian intifadah is not an act of terrorism, as an important step in the right direction toward a correct and logical assessment of the situation and an initial move toward U.S. liberation from Israeli bonds.

The paper notes that this is the first time that an official U.S. department has recognized the Palestinian people's right to resist the authorities who occupy their territories and practise the ugliest forms of repression against them. [passage omitted]

AL-AHRAM says that King Husayn's expected visit to Washington has a good chance of success following the clear signs of positive change that have taken place under President George Bush's administration.

It has become clear, the paper adds, that the United States is now convinced that the PLO is one of the Palestinian parties with whom it is possible to negotiate.

The paper cites as proof of this the fact that the U.S. Administration has been careful to continue the dialogue with the PLO despite all Israeli pressures.

AL-AHRAM points out that the only reservation concerning the new U.S. stance relates to the announcement by the United States that it does not accept the establishment of a Palestinian state. The paper says that this opposition is not Washington's last word but is merely a negotiating tactic.

The paper asserts that the U.S. declaration regarding the guaranteeing of the political rights of the Palestinian people, in addition to its declaration on guaranteeing Israeli security, can only be explained as an expression of the conviction that there are two nations, whose security must be guaranteed through the existence of two states coexisting in accordance with the principles of justice, peace, and independence.

Israeli Foreign Ministry Official Arrives

NC1404054789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2155 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] Cairo, 13 Apr (MENA)—Re'uen Merhav, director general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, arrived in Cairo tonight for a visit of several days. He is scheduled to hold talks with Egyptian Foreign Ministry officials.

Foreign Ministry Official Meets Palestinians

NC1304172889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1600 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] Cairo, 13 Apr (MENA)—Today Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary of the Foreign Ministry and head of the President's Office for Political Affairs, had separate meetings with Faysal al-Husayni, head of the

Palestinian Studies Center in Jerusalem, and Sa'id Kan'an, chairman of the Society of Friends of the Palestinian Al-Najah University.

The situation in the occupied Palestinian territories, the political situation, and Palestinian developments in the Arab and international arenas were discussed in both meetings.

Libya

MENA: Al-Qadhdhafi Escapes Assassination 16 Mar

NC1304202089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2005 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] Tunis, 13 Apr (MENA)—The Tunisian weekly newspaper AL-AYYAM reported today that Libyan Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi was subjected to an assassination attempt while attending a wedding in a Banghazi suburb on 16 March. He was accompanied at the time by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, who was visiting Libya.

The paper revealed that an individual attacked Al-Qadhdhafi with a knife but was shot dead by Al-Qadhdhafi's guards. Al-Qadhdhafi was subsequently transferred to Surt to receive treatment for the psychological shock he had suffered.

The paper pointed out that Al-Qadhdhafi made no public appearance on the anniversary marking the evacuation of British forces from Libya in March. He also did not attend the final session of the extraordinary meeting of the General People's Congress which was held in Tubruq to ratify the Arab Maghreb Union treaty.

JANA Marks Anniversary of U.S. Attack

LD1304151389 Tripoli JANA in English 1420 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Tayr [April] 13, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The Libyan Arab people alongside all the free peoples worldwide hails tomorrow the third anniversary of the brave encounter with the barbarous and abortive US-NATO aggression against the fortress of freedom—great Al-Jamahiriyah the land of international centre (mathpa). [as received]

On such a day, our people scored a victory over the forces of evil and terrorism represented by this aggression in which the US used 170 aircraft flying 14 hours utilizing the satellites in NATO countries, apart from making use of the most sophisticated espionage and radar as well as electronic equipments stationed in several countries in a bid to assassinate the leader of revolution. Such an act is unprecedented in history.

The USA officials of its relevant governmental departments and its espionage agencies held talks with war advisers in NATO to carry out the conspiracy of assassinating the leader of revolution—the unionist hope of the Arab nation, the leader of international revolution, the symbol of Islamic new awakening, the escalating African revolution, the dream of the oppressed world, the creator of people's power and the era of the masses—Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

The Libyan Arab people has aquired the respect and love of peoples worldwide and international organization for this remarkable victory over this aggression in which the US aircraft killed innocent Libyan Arab women, children and elderly people.

While our people hails this anniversary, it is more resolved than ever to take up the road of the great Al-Fatih revolution and its eternal principles. Every day this people is accomplishing an achievement and taking a new step towards the all-embracing Arab unity. It is consolidating the people's power and direct people's democracy achieving civilized accomplishments in every sphere daily.

Our leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi is leading the procession of freedom, Arab unity and world revolution, whilst the enemies of these things are being overthrown one by one [words indistinct] Reagan - leader of international terrorism and child-killer. He has been cast in the dust-bin of history... good riddance—cursed forever by peoples worldwide.

The Libyan Arab people alongside its leader are rejoicing in the festivals of freedom and basking in the sunshine of glory, the unity of Arab Maghreb on the road of the overall Arab unity confirming that immortality is for peoples striving for freedom and the enemies of these peoples will be vanquished.

Mauritania

Senegal Minister Makes 'Correction' on Clash

AB1304182889 Libreville Africa No 1 in French 1230 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] Senegalese President Abdou Diouf yesterday sent an emissary, Interior Minister Andre Sonko, to Nouakchott in Mauritania. Mr Sonko spoke to Mauritanian President Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya about the bloody clashes that occurred on the Mauritania-Senegal border. On the spot for Africa No 1 in Nouakchott, Salem Meshdou Salem reports:

[Begin Salem recording] The Senegalese farmers fought against Mauritanian shepherds and not Mauritanian security forces as initially announced by the Senegalese opposition. This correction was made by the special envoy of President Abdou Diouf. Mr Andre Sonko said however that whenever there is loss of human life, there is of course regret, emotion, and indignation, adding that such incidents must no longer occur and that the two governments are jointly committed to solidarity and

goodneighborliness. The Senegalese interior minister had earlier held a working visit with his Mauritanian counterpart, Colonel Djibril Ould Abdellahi.

The tension between Mauritania and Senegal has never completely eased since September 1986 when opponents of President Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya began to find refuge in Dakar. Periodically, brawls break out in Dakar between native inhabitants of Dakar and Mauritanian traders and periodically brawls break out in the Senegal River valley between Mauritanian livestock breeders and Senegalese farmers.

Whatever the case, political analysts think that the almost permanent tension between Dakar and Nouakchott will never ease as long as the Liberation Front for Mauritanian Blacks conducts its activities against President Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya from Senegal. That is why whenever there is an incident between the two countries, it is an issue of the greatest interest to the political factions in both Dakar and Nouakchott. [end recording]

Sudan

SUNA: Army Denies Fall of Akobo to SPLA

EA1304165389 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1415 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] Khartoum, 13 Apr—The Armed Forces General Command has denied the fall of the Akobo area to the outlaw forces as reported by the outlaw radio. The General Command said in a statement that [words indistinct] the heroic Armed Forces had implemented a withdrawal plan [word indistinct] (?from) the Akobo post and that this plan had been laid down by the Upper Nile Military Command under which a force of the [word indistinct] forces had been sent to cover the withdrawal [words indistinct].

The statement said that the evacuation of the area had been carried out in accordance with the plan laid down with total success on 11 April 1989 [words indistinct]. The statement described the report broadcast by the outlaw radio as lies and fabrication.

Army Reports 'Withdrawal' From Akobo Post

EA1304230489 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] We have received the following statement from the General Command of the People's Armed forces:

Our valiant Armed Forces have successfully implemented the withdrawal plan from the Akobo post, which was drawn up by the command of the Upper Nile Military Zone. A force from the Malakal forces was dispatched to oversee the withdrawal process. The area was evacuated according to plan with complete success on 11 April. The General Command of the People's Armed Forces confirms that the report by the outlaws of their occupation of the Akobo area is the kind of lie and fabrication that the outlaws' radio broadcasts daily.

Armed Forces Statement on Chadian Movement

NC1304214889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2025 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] Khartoum, 13 Apr (MENA)—The Sudanese Armed Forces General Command issued a statement today on Chadian military personnel's entering the Darfur Region in the wake of recent political and military developments in Chad.

The statement said that large numbers of Chadian military personnel opposed to the government succeeded in escaping toward Sudanese territory in the (?Wadi Tini) and (Arfankul) areas north of the (?Junaynah) area adjacent to the Chadian border in Darfur. The escape came in the wake of fighting and pursuit operations between these personnel and the Chadian Armed Forces in the border area. The operations spread to some Sudanese villages and created a degree of instability in those areas.

The statement added that the Sudanese Armed Forces in the area performed their duties fully and issued a warning to the conflicting Chadian forces to evacuate Sudanese territory immediately. These forces consequently withdrew into Chadian territory.

The statement pointed out that the Armed Forces carried out measures to prevent the future entry of any Chadian military forces into Sudanese territory. The Armed Forces have sent reinforcements to the Darfur Region in order to enhance the combat capability of the Sudanese forces there and enable them to confront the current situation.

Rebels Say Army Units Refuse To Move South

EA1304135889 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] Very reliable SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] sources in the General Headquarters, Khartoum, have relayed to the commander in chief a message from Sudan Armed Forces units that have been amassed in Kosti and Jabal Awliya on their way to the south. According to this message, the forces in Jabal Awliya say they are 3 battalions, totaling 1,828 officers, noncommissioned officers, and men, while those at Kosti are 6 battalions, totaling 4,086 officers, NCO's, and men.

In their message to the commander in chief, these forces at Jabal Awliya and Kosti said they have refused to move to the south and that even if they are forced to move to the south, they will continue with their disobedience and find ways and means to sabotage operations and to coordinate with the SPLA. In their message to the commander in chief these forces say their main reasons

for disobedience to move to the south is that the so-called Awlad al-Bilad [sons of the homeland, i.e. Arabs] should have to do the fighting this time.

They said about 90 percent of them come from Kordufan, Darfur, and the south and that Khartoum's policy of killing a slave by another slave has been overplayed, and that enough was enough. Instead, they said, they should be going to Darfur to rescue Fur people that are being massacred by internal and external racist elements, and they appealed to the SPLA to find ways and means to rescue and assist the Fur people.

The message reports that in late March, Lieutenant General Jabir al-Sanusi and Major General Abu Qurun went to Kosti and Jabal Awliya to negotiate with them to accept orders to move to the south. However, the forces have assured the SPLA commander in chief that even if they are forced to move to the south they will continue with their rebellion, and asked the SPLA to be on the standby for their next moves.

The high command here assures these rebellious forces that the SPLA is ready to coordinate with them whether in Kosti or in the south, and, quote: We assure them the SPLA is ready to receive their messages and for any joint action they recommend. The SPLA is also now in a position to provide assistance to the Fur people that are being slaughtered in cold blood, unquote.

Rebels Prepare To Resume Shelling Juba

EA1304164789 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] The Sudan People's Liberation Army [SPLA] today (?warns) of imminent long-range artillery bombardment of Juba Army garrison. In a message to Radio SPLA the official military spokesman of the SPLA today (?warned) Juba that the SPLA will conduct intensive long-range and artillery bombardment of Juba Army barracks within the next 96 hours, starting from 1500 Sudan local time [1300 GMT] today, Thursday, 13th April 1989.

The spokesman said the bombardment will be from the west bank of the Nile instead of the east bank. Long-range artillery bombardment of Juba from the east bank has resulted in regrettable civilian casualties in the past. The movement has suspended bombardment of Juba over the last 30 days in order to shift some of the long-range artilleries to the west bank. It is hoped that artillery bombardment of Juba Army garrison and other military installations from the west bank will minimize civilian casualties.

SPLA artillery units that have remained on the east bank are ordered to be on maximum alert and to fire into Juba town only on a (?reciprocity) basis, that is, for every one rocket fired to the east bank from Juba by the Sudanese Army the SPLA will reply with two rockets and the military apparatus in Juba will be held responsible and accountable for the consequences. Otherwise, if there is no provocation from Juba, whether by enemy artillery or ground forces, SPLA artillery units on the east bank are ordered to remain silent.

Rebels Appeal to 'Patriotic Elements' in Army

EA1304151489 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] sources close to the prime minister's office have revealed to the SPLA a very sinister plan by the prime minister and men. These sources report that the prime minister, despite his talk of peace, actually wants the war to continue until at least 1992.

By then the prime minister hopes the Sudanese Army and the SPLA will have fought themselves to mutual destruction and he will then replace them with his sectarian army, which he is now building with assistance from a foreign mini- power.

The official spokesman of the SPLA said the movement takes this report very seriously and with grave concern and calls on patriotic elements in the Sudanese Army to take very serious note of this sinister and unpatriotic plan.

The spokesman said the movement is considering ways and means to get into some form of alliance with the patriotic elements in the Sudanese Army in order for the two armies to expel the foreign aggression and occupation of Darfur. The spokesman called on patriotic elements in the Sudanese Army to give this the serious consideration it deserves.

Constituent Assembly Elects New Speaker

EA1304135289 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Summary] At this afternoon's session the Constituent Assembly elected Faruq 'Ali al-Barbar as its speaker, by acclaim.

Defense Minister Meets Egyptian Ambassador

EA1304215589 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] Major General Mubarak 'Uthman Rahmah, retired minister of defense, had a meeting at the General Command this morning with Mr Taqiy al-Din al-Sharbini, ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt in Khartoum. They discussed bilateral relations between the two fraternal countries in all fields and ways of strengthening and developing them, particularly in the military sphere. Issues of common interest between the two countries were also reviewed.

New Talks With Iran To Begin 20 Apr in Geneva

JN1304173089 Baghdad INA in English 1710 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] United Nations, April 13, INA—A United Nations spokesman announced today that agreement has been reached to convene a new round of direct ministerial talks between Iran and Iraq, under the auspices of U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, in Geneva starting April 20.

The announcement follows consultations by the secretary- general's personal representative Jan Eliasson with an Iranian delegation on March 2 and 3 and April 6 and 10, and with an Iraqi delegation on March 8 and 9 and March 30 and 31 in New York.

The talks will be attended by the foreign ministers of the two countries and will be chaired by the secretary-general.

The U.N. official, Francois Giuliani, said the secretary-general hopes that "these intensive discussions at a high level will provide an important opportunity to move towards full and rapid implementation" of Security Council Resolution 598, which calls for a negotiated settlement of the Iraq-Iran conflict and "the achieving of goodneighborly relations and lasting peace between the two countries."

He said the secretary-general feels that "this task should be pursued with urgency, determination and goodwill."

Tariq 'Aziz, 'Arafat Discuss Developments 13 Apr

JN1304192489 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Apr (INA)—Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine, met here today with Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

During the meeting, they discussed the recent developments in the Palestine question. Tariq 'Aziz reiterated Iraq's firm and principled stand on supporting the PLO and the brave Palestinian intifadah [uprising].

The talks also dealt with the situation in the occupied territory and the progress of the ongoing negotiations between Iraq and Iran to implement UN Security Council Resolution No 598 under the supervision of the UN secretary general.

The meeting was attended by Revolution Command Council member Sa'dun Shakir, the Foreign Ministry under secretary, the chief of the Arab desk at the Foreign Ministry, and the ambassador of the State of Palestine in Baghdad.

'Secret Cable' on Shamir Plan Sent to Envoys

TA1404063089 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 14 Apr 89 p 1

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Menahem Shalev]

[Text] Israel insists that Palestinians who take part in the proposed elections in the territories express, in advance, their agreement to participate in a process leading to the establishment of an interim self-government.

This emerges from the text of a secret cable sent by the Foreign Minister's Bureau to ambassadors around the world and obtained by THE JERUSALEM POST.

The cable formulates for the first time Prime Minister Shamir's concept of the terms of reference of the elections, to which the Palestinian representatives would have to agree in advance:

"The aim of the elections is to bring about the establishment of a delegation which will participate in negotiations on an interim settlement, in which a self-governing administration will be set up. The interim period will serve as an essential test of cooperation and co-existence. It will be followed by negotiations on the final settlement, in which Israel will be prepared to discuss any option which will be presented."

The ambassadors are instructed to submit the prime minister's peace proposals at "the most senior levels" and to present them as a personal message from Foreign Minister Arens.

The ambassadors are also instructed to submit the text, which contains the first officially formulated presentation of Shamir's plans, to the governments of countries in which they are non-resident envoys.

The ambassadors are asked to tell their interlocutors that "Israel expects the support of its friends for the prime minister's initiative. Such support could form an important contribution to peace in the Middle East." The ambassadors are advised to submit a copy of the statement made this week by Shamir on the White House lawn.

'Official' Formulation of Plan

TA1404075489 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 14 Apr 89 p 8

["Full text" of "the official Foreign Ministry formulation of the prime minister's proposals"—POST subhead; boldface as published]

[Text]

The Four-Point Plan

1. The Camp David Partners—Reconfirmation of the Commitment to Peace.

Ten years ago, the peace treaty between Israel and Egypt was concluded on the basis of the Camp David Accords. When the accords were signed, it was expected that more Arab countries would shortly join the circle of peace. This expectation was not realized.

The strength of Israeli-Egyptian relations and the cooperation between the three partners to the accords have a decisive influence on the chances for Middle East peace, and the Israeli-Egyptian treaty is the cornerstone to the building of peace in the region.

Therefore, the prime minister has called on the three countries whose leaders affixed their signature to the Camp David Accords, the U.S., Egypt and Israel, to renew, 10 eyars later, their commitment to the agreements and to peace.

2. The Arab Countries—From a State of War to a Process of Peace.

The prime minister urged the U.S. and Egypt to call on the other Arab countries to desist from hostility towards Israel and to replace belligerency and boycott with negotiation and cooperation. Of all the Arab countries, only Egypt has recognized Israel and its right to exist.

Many of these states actively participated in wars against Israel by direct involvement or indirect assistance. To this day, the Arab countries are partners in an economic boycott against Israel, refuse to recognize it and refuse to establish diplomatic relations with it.

The solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the building of confidence leading to a permanent settlement require a change in the attitude of the Arab countries towards Israel. Israel, therefore, calls on these states to put an end to this historic anomaly and to join direct bilateral negotiations aimed at normalization and peace.

3. A Solution to the Regugee Problem—An International Effort.

The prime minister has called for an international effort, led by the U.S., and with the significant participation of Israel, to solve the problem of the Arab refugees. The refugee problem has been perpetuated by the leaders of the Arab countries, while Israel with its meagre resources is absorbing hundreds of thousands of Jewish refugees from Arab countries. Settling the refugees must not wait for a political process or come in its stead.

The matter must be viewed as a humanitarian problem and action must be taken to ease the human distress of the refugees and to ensure for their families appropriate living quarters and self respect.

Some 300,000 people live in refugee camps in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District. In the 1970s, Israel unilaterally undertook the rehabilitation of residents of

refugee camps in Gaza and erected 10 neighborhoods in which 11,000 families reside. This operation was carried out in partnership with the residents despite PLO objections.

The time has now come to ensure appropriate infrastructure, living quarters and services for the rest of the residents of the camps who, at the same time, are victims of the conflict, hostages to it, and an element which perpetuates is continued existence.

Goodwill and an international effort to allocate the necessary resources will ensure a satisfactory solution to this humanitarian effort and will help improve the political climate in the region.

4. Free Elections in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza on the Road to Negotiations.

In order to bring about a process of political negotiations and in order to locate legitimate representatives of the Palestinian population, the prime minister proposes that free elections be held among the Arabs of Judaea, Samaria and Gaza—elections that will be free of the intimidation and terror of the PLO.

These elections will permit the development of an authentic representation that is not self-appointed from the outside. This representation will be comprised of people who will be chosen by the population in free elections and who will express, in advance, their willingness to take part in the following diplomatic process:

The aim of the elections is to bring about the establishment of a delegation that will participate in negotiations on an interim settlement, in which a self-governing administration will be set up. The interim period will serve as an essential test of cooperation and coexistence. It will be followed by negotiations on the final settlement, in which Israel will be prepared to discuss any option which will be presented.

The U.S. administration has expressed its support for the idea and following the prime minister's return, his proposals will be discussed here, and the various questions surrrounding the holding of elections will be examined. Contacts necessary for the implementation of the proposals will be maintained.

Other Points Contained in Arens's Message:

—Israel recognizes the fact that countries must take risks for peace, and it did so at Camp David. At the same time, Israel cannot be expected to take steps that would endanger its very existence. As is well known, our estimate is that the establishment of an additional state west of the Jordan will create a focus of instability which will endanger the peace, Israel, and the region as a whole.

—After a long freeze in the Middle East, the prime minister's initiative creates a new opportunity for moving the peace process forward. For movement towards peace, Israel needs partners and it hopes that these will, indeed, be found.

—The involvement of Jordan in the diplomatic process is most important as it is Israel's neighbour, and—by virtue of its demographic and geographic characteristics—the connecting link between the Arab and the Palestinian aspects of the conflict.

—For your information, after the publication of the initiative, several Palestinian personalities said in private conversations that the proposals constitute a basis for progress. President Mubarak, too, did not initially reject the prime minister's proposals.

—During the prime minister's visit to Washington, it was learned that the Soviet Union is supplying attack aircraft to Libya and Syria, and the exchange of fire in Lebanon increased along with the Syrian involvement there. All these serve as a reminder of the wider context of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

—It should be noted that the main aspect of the conflict is the Arab threat to Israel and the refusal of Arab countries to recognize its existence. The quantities of weapons in the Middle East, the continued arming of Arab countries with sophisticated weapons, the recent Iraqi and Libyan use of chemical weapons on the battlefield and against civilians, the character of the regimes and their instability, fundamentalist extremism in the area—all of these serve as a daily reminder of the reality with which Israel must contend.

Shamir: U.S. Trying To Win Over Media

TA1404073989 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (LESHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 14 Apr 89 p 1

["Exclusive" interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Washington-based correspondent Bina Barzel "upon the conclusion of his visit to the United States;" place not given]

[Text] [Barzel] Is there a change in the administration's attitude to Israel as a result of the visit?

[Shamir] The administration was not worried about our policy, but about the battle to win over the media, which it believed it was losing because of us. Both the President and the secretary of state are political people with political ambitions. They recognized that the friendship and ties with Israel do not constitute profitable merchandise.

Our recent move has changed the trends of public opinion, and we are now again beginning an upward climb. This was reflected in the WASHINGTON POST poll. I myself saw the trend in Congress, where I met but

a few people who made critical remarks, and even these people did so very cautiously. Not too long ago the situation was just the opposite. Misha (Arens), too, heard different things.

[Barzel] It has been said that the Camp David plan contains pitfalls. Are there any pitfalls in the new plan?

[Shamir] There are certainly some dangers, but we have no choice. One is sometimes obliged to take risks.

[Barzel] Is the move you have launched not a stratagem designed to gain time?

[Shamir] No. I would not deceive the U.S. Government. Am I crazy? Would I jeopardize Israel's position to such an extent?

[Barzel] Have you given the heads of the administration oral promises which have not been made public?

[Shamir] There is nothing that is not known or written down.

[Barzel] What will be the nature of the elected Palestinian delegation?

[Shamir] We have not discussed these points. Only a short time ago everyone—both in the government and in Congress—believed that I am anti-everything, that I fight for the status quo. Today they realize this is not true. It has been several months since I started saying that I am not in favor of the status quo, that I desire peace, but that I have to make sure that the situation does not get worse. I must fight to guarantee our safety.

[Barzel] How did the Americans receive the proposals?

[Shamir] The proposals are sensible. I think our strength lies in the fact that we understand the Americans and they understand us. There is an affinity between us. There may be differences of opinion, but there is an affinity where feeling and logic are concerned.

[Barzel] How will the elections be held?

[Shamir] The moves will start soon. We must not drag our feet, but we should act together to limit the risks and improve the chances for progress.

[Barzel] Are there any Palestinians who will be willing to participate in the move?

[Shamir] I am convinced there are many, but the question is to what extent they will be political visible. There are many Palestinians seeking a solution to this situation, because they can no longer stand the suffering.

[Barzel] Can the PLO hinder the move?

[Shamir] We have a battle on our hands, but how long can the PLO oppose the genuine desire of masses of Palestinians to launch a process that will lead away from the confrontation?

[Barzel] Will you initiate a personal appeal to Palestinians in the territories?

[Shamir] I will consider it. I fear, however, that those who regard the other points of my initiative—ending the state of war and solving the refugee problem—as purely decorative do not treat my plan seriously.

If the West adopted the initiative of building housing projects for residents of the refugee camps, the PLO could not prevent it, even if it opposed the move. I am confident the PLO will oppose it, because such a move would deflate the residents' desire to fight.

[Barzel] Can you set a timetable for the move?

[Shamir] It is a process; the entire issue of peace is a process. It is impossible to attain a solution to our conflict with the Arab countries through a single move, one step, one decision, or one treaty. The direction, however, must be positive.

[Barzel] Will your present visit to the United States go down in history as an important landmark?

[Shamir] There may be other and more important visits in the future. One does not achieve a historic achievement in one move.

Returns, Holds News Conference

TA1404152989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1414 GMT 14 Apr 89

[News conference by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir upon his return from the United States, at Ben-Gurion Airport—live]

[Text] [Shamir] Ladies and gentlemen, I am returning from a lengthy 10-day visit to the United States. This was my first meeting with the new U.S. Administration, and it was important that in this visit we should set the foundations of the nature of the relationship and cooperation between the two countries.

Yesterday, just before the end of my visit and on the eve of my return to Israel, I phoned the U.S. President and the secretary of state. In both talks we agreed that the visit had definitely fulfilled its purpose, namely, continuing the relations of friendship and cooperation between Israel and the United States in all common and mutually acceptable spheres.

I arrived in the United States at a time when Israel was being attacked and reviled daily because of the riots in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza and the widespread hostile propaganda campaign being waged against us by the

entire media. In my talks with the President and his aides, we agreed on the main guidelines on which we will make progress together in order to put an end to our conflict with the Arab world and the bloody confrontation with some of the inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza who currently constitute the spearhead in the Arab war against the State of Israel.

The four-point initiative I proposed was welcomed by the U.S. Administration, and we agreed to work together on formulating the details and creating the conditions that would enable the initiative to become reality. As is known, the initiative is also addressed to the Arab countries that are still in a state of war with us and to the inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza who take part in serious disturbances.

I presented our ideas to members of the U.S. Congress, both the Senate and the House of Representatives. I conferred with many of them, both in one-on-one meetings, in groups and in committees, and I was greeted with sympathy, friendship, and understanding. In all the meetings, there was a climate of partnership and deep friendship.

I strengthened our ties with the Jewish community in the United States, whose importance is invaluable, particularly in terms of the vital need that every U.S. citizen should know that the Jewish community's support for the State of Israel is steadfast and all-embracing. I met many Jewish organizations and also had close contacts with large Jewish audiences numbering thousands of people. Everywhere I went I was greeted with sympathy, understanding, and enthusiasm.

I also took action concerning the media. I granted numerous interviews, gave lectures, and even met with many public opinion makers.

At the end of the visit, I feel something has been done to put an end to the sense of deterioration in the relationship between the United States and Israel, which we hold very dear. We must pursue action along these lines so that the good aspects overcome the bad ones.

Together with the U.S. Government we began a process that has a good chance of bringing us closer to peace. The tests are still ahead of us. To stand up to them we will need unity, determination, wisdom, perseverance, and endurance. I pray that all these will be at our disposal in times of trial. I wish the entire Jewish people a kosher and happy Passover holiday. Thank you very much.

[Voice of Israel correspondent Ze'ev Kohen] Mr Prime Minister, both Israel and the United States agree on the question of elections in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. What is the next stage? Will a ministerial committee be established to examine the issue?

[Shamir] First of all, I will have to report to the Cabinet and the Inner Cabinet about the content of the talks and the agreements reached. We will have to make decisions accordingly with regard to future action and the formulation of the specifics of the various proposals. We will make progress accordingly.

[Kohen] There are signs that the PLO accepts the principle of elections. Is this a substantial change in the PLO's actions and thinking, or is it merely a public relations ploy?

[Shamir] We have no information about such kind of signs. Also, we do not expect anything from the PLO.

[Kohen] Your peace initiative has had reverberations all over the world, and I know that the Foreign Ministry has launched a massive public relations campaign. What are the chances of its success?

[Shamir] There have been reverberations and reactions, but it is still too early to reach any conclusions. The opinions of different circles must be weighed, and I think we will know more within the next few days.

[IDF Radio correspondent Natan Gutman] Jordan, Egypt, the Palestinians in the territories, and the PLO have all rejected the notion of elections in the territories. How do you expect this idea to come true?

[Shamir] I think it is still too early to pass judgment on the position of all these elements. I was told by U.S. sources that the position of the various Arab elements, particularly that of the Arab countries, has not yet been formulated. Deliberations have yet to take place. The United States will be active in this field, and we will see.

[Gutman] Mr Shamir, Israel cooperates with the United States on the notion of elections; for its part, the United States informs the PLO. Are these not actually indirect negotiations between Israel and the PLO?

[Shamir] There are no negotiations whatsoever, either direct or indirect, between Israel and the PLO. This question was addressed to the U.S. secretary of state who specifically said: We are fully aware of the Israeli position objecting to any negotiations with the PLO, and we are not doing anything to have such negotiations.

[Israel Television correspondent Yig'al Goren] Could you specify the actual phases of the political process begun during your visit to the United States and whether there is an estimated timetable for progress in this process?

[Shamir] The first move has been made, but it is too early to talk about a timetable. The first move was to attain the agreement of the United States to the principles of our initiative. As is known, the United States is today a most prominent political factor, perhaps the most important one in the Middle East.

The United States currently enjoys a very strong influence in the region, and the U.S. Administration is determined to take action in the direction we agreed upon. Of course, later we will have to go into detail, work on the specifics of our proposals—first of all among ourselves and later with the United States—and we will have to conduct negotiations with those elements who join the process.

[Goren] Sir, what is the main importance of holding elections in the territories? Why is this the best idea?

[Shamir] First of all, I did not mention only elections, but rather four points in our initiative. As for elections, this is one way of budging the negotiating process between us and the inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza.

I regard the agreement between Israel and the United States on the principles of the initiative as the main achievement of this trip. I attach great importance to the sweeping support of the Jewish community in the United States. I also see considerable improvement in U.S. public opinion in everything pertaining to Israel.

[Goren] Are the reports published during your visit true that the United States is actually giving Israel a deadline of 6 to 7 months to promote the idea of elections, or else it will take action to further the notion of an international peace conference?

[Shamir] This issue was not discussed with me. The U.S. opposition to an international conference was emphasized, and I was told that the United States will do everything it can to have our initiative become reality.

[Israel Television correspondent Shlomo Ganor] Does Israel make elections contingent on absolute calm in the territories?

[Shamir] Well, we will have to discuss that. Of course, it is inconceivable for elections to be held alongside acts of violence. Absolute calm and order must prevail during the elections, as is customary wherever elections are held. Questions remain as to when this period should start, but we will yet discuss this.

[Ganor] Will you call on Palestinians in the territories to take part in the elections and change their current position?

[Shamir] I will most definitely do that. Actually, I call on them to take part in the elections and in this process, because I am confident and sure that this is compatible with their interests.

[Ganor] Will only the inhabitants of the territories be allowed to take part in the elections, or will there be candidates from outside the territories?

[Shamir] I personally think that only the inhabitants of the territories should take part, but there are all sorts of proposals. We will have to discuss all this.

Peres Discusses Shamir Plan, Labor Party

TA1304181389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1610 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Interview with Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and finance minister, by Yitzhaq Golan in the "With A Discerning Eye" program—live]

[Excerpts] [Golan] Perhaps we should start with the intifadah [uprising]. A real chance of terminating the uprising cannot be seen in the near future. Some say that the situation cannot change without daring and unorthodox political action. What would you suggest?

[Peres] I, too, cannot see the intifadah dying down, not in the immediate future. I believe that the solution is a political one, not military. I do not think this can be done with one daring move; that is a fantasy. Nevertheless, the sooner we launch political moves, the sooner we reduce the tension in the area.

[Golan] You say daring action is not the solution, but orthodox action does not seem to help; the intifadah has been raging for approximately 1 and ½ years.

[Peres] There are no orthodox actions. At the moment, there is a political paralysis rather than a political process. At the moment, there is talk about a political process and there are attempts to conduct negotiations on negotiations, but a real political process has not yet begun.

[Golan] You said this week that the prime minister's initiative should be regarded as the beginning of a process plagued with a lot of unknown factors. Mr Shamir is due back in Israel tomorrow. In your opinion, what are the unknown factors in the initiative he took to Washington?

[Peres] I think there is one unknown factor that we must discuss candidly. Is this a move aimed at improving our relations with the United States? Is this the opening of negotiations with the Palestinians? If it is the former, it will probably make things easier for a while, but will ultimately not solve the main question, which is the solution of the Palestinian problem.

As I see it, the issue of elections was described in very general terms; all the unknown factors are still pending and awaiting clarification, including the question of whether these will be municipal or political elections, of whether the Arabs of East Jerusalem will be given the right to vote and be elected, and of whether we will allow foreign observers to oversee the elections.

If we really intend to regard the elections as an opening move, we must not suffice with declarations, but must go into minute detail and try to pave the way for the opening of negotiations.

[Golan] That road would pave the way for authorized PLO representatives, regardless of whether these are municipal or political elections. In fact, we are already conducting direct negotiations with the PLO—if I am quoting you correctly—through U.S.-PLO talks in Tunis.

[Peres] That is not necessarily the only possible definition. For instance, if we are talking about representatives from the territories—regardless of their affiliations outside the territories—that does not necessarily mean the classical PLO. I am not saying this hysterically: We have objective problems with the PLO. The political question confronting us is: With whom do we conduct negotiations?

With the Palestinian inhabitants of the territories, or with the Palestinian diaspora? I think we must be ready to negotiate with the Palestinian diaspora, but then the question is, who represents it? In my opinion, half of it is in Jordan, which means that what is called for is a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

What the PLO in Tunis wants now is to replace Jordan without being there. It wants us to treat it as if it were the second or first Jordanian delegation, or in other words, as if it represented the entire Palestinian diaspora in terms of the right of return and so on, although the PLO does not actually represent it.

The second problem we have with the PLO is that these people do not realize that if you state that you are halting terror you must actually halt it, or else the declaration is worthless. I am not that reconciled with the U.S. definition that throwing stones does not exactly constitute terror. So, what is it?

In the last Cabinet session, someone suggested that a decision be made as to what size a stone must be before it stops being a stone and becomes a weapon. Where would that end? Clearly, from the psychological point of view, this perpetuates a situation that is not conducive to the opening of negotiations.

[Golan] For some reason you failed to mention whether any kind of elections in the territories can be held while the intifadah is raging, as evident in today's incidents in the village of Nahhalin near Bethlehem. In fact, the intifadah is worsening by the day.

[Peres] Look, if we reach an agreement on elections, I think the intifadah will definitely die down or abate. I would not turn it into a precondition, because the moment one side starts doing that, the other side follows suit. I would initially conduct negotiations on holding elections that have a chance of being accepted by the other side.

After all, we can at best put up the ballot boxes, but we cannot make substitute voters. Therefore, I say: Let us have elections and let us conduct negotiations.

Until we reached the London agreement, the Jordanian option was also a mere declaration, at which point it was translated into formal negotiations. The same holds true about these elections. A possible, albeit difficult, way out of this dilemma is to say:

OK, let us try to launch a dialogue with the other side over the kind of elections they would like to hold. I have experience in this issue, because as defense minister in 1976 I was in charge of the municipal elections in the territories. I remember the criticism leveled at me at that time.

[Golan] It was said that you brought the PLO to power.

[Peres] And what will happen now? If political elections are held, who do you think will rise to power? The Zionist movement?

[Golan] To sum up your remarks on this issue, you are actually saying that we will have no other choice and ultimately we will have to talk to the PLO in the diaspora; not with the PLO or the Palestinians in Jordan, but rather with the PLO and Palestinians outside Jordan—namely, with the PLO in Tunis.

[Peres] No, I did not say that.

[Golan] You did not say that, but that is the implication of your remarks, because you will not be able to conduct talks with Palestinians in Jordan, which is out of the picture altogether.

[Peres] If elections are held in the territories and people are elected, I am not discounting the possibility that they will be elected without being threatened from the outside. To be more specific and so as not to sound as if I am trying to evade the subject, I will say the following. There are three possibilities:

That the PLO will agree to elections, that the PLO will reject elections, or that its rejection will not be such that will preclude local inhabitants from voting or being elected—I am not altogether discounting the latter possibility.

I remember when we took up the issue of the rehabilitation of refugees in Gaza and the construction of houses for them the PLO came out vociferously against it. Nevertheless, when the local population moved on this, the PLO persisted in its objection; that became weaker, however, and ultimately the PLO apparently took part in some of the projects.

[Golan] You once said that those who rejected the London agreement you made with Husayn, which marked its first anniversary 2 days ago, would ultimately be forced to

negotiate with the PLO. Do you think this is the situation we now find ourselves in, with Husayn out of the picture and probably not wanting to get back into it?

[Peres] I said that those who did or will sabotage the London agreement would be paving the road to the PLO and 'Arafat, and that is exactly what happened. They have taken up center stage and they have the most powerful loudspeaker at their disposal. This is what happened, and the whole world is clapping its hands; let us see things as they really are.

As for Jordan, it is out of the picture at the moment and I am very sorry about it. When we talk about a permanent solution, I think we all agree that there is room for only two armies here: one Israeli, one Jordanian—there is no room for a third army.

What is autonomy all about? To a large extent, autonomy is rule without an army. There may be various interpretations, but the truth is that Palestinian autonomy is devoid of an authority to set up an army or conduct foreign relations. These are the two main factors that distinguish a state from an autonomy.

There is no doubt, however, that what I said has come true. The fact is that since the London agreement, the United States has entered a dialogue with the PLO. I have also noticed that the foreign minister, and to some extent the prime minister, went to very great lengths not to remark on this issue to the Americans. They did not tell the Americans to stop the talks. The distinctions are becoming very thin, to the point where the slightest move is noticed immediately.

[Golan] During his recent visit to Israel, the British shadow foreign secretary, who has conferred with PLO members and Yasir 'Arafat on numerous occasions, was asked: Can Yasir 'Arafat be trusted? He said: I do not know whether we can trust him, but test him [last seven words in English]. What is the great fear in putting the PLO to the test? How would we be endangering ourselves? After all, you have heard Cabinet ministers and your party colleagues talking in favor of at least trying such talks. What are you afraid of if we agree to talk with them?

[Peres] The problem is neither tests nor trust. Were relations between countries based only on trust, there would be no armies. Why do Britain or France keep armies? Because in addition to a measure of trust, they also want a measure of security.

The problem is that the nature of the negotiators determines the outcome of the negotiations. For instance, if you begin negotiations with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, obviously the result will be of a Jordanian-Palestinian character; if you conduct negotiations with a PLO delegation, the outcome will be of a PLO nature; if you conduct separate negotiations with a Palestinian delegation you get a separate Palestinian result.

Do you think we can trust a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation 100 percent? The answer is no. Do you think we can trust only the inhabitants of the territories 100 percent? The answer is again no. We know exactly who will be elected and what their opinions will be. As said, their opinions will not differ from the current views upheld by the PLO.

What we want is to choose the nature of the group with whom we will negotiate, which will make it easier for us to arrive at a desirable solution—this is one problem. The second problem—and I understand this reasoning—is that we are ready to make concessions for the sake of peace, but we are very cautious not to make concessions as a result of terror. I think that, if terror were to vanish or cease, the entire picture today would be different. [passage omitted]

[Golan] The prime minister will return from his trip tomorrow. He will be able to say that a rift between Israel and the United States has been averted, that U.S. Jews stand behind the State of Israel as an entrenched wall, and that there is no crisis in Israeli-U.S. relations.

[Peres] A rift with the United States? Is that the problem afflicting Israel? What difference does it make to the intifadah if U.S. Jews are behind us as an entrenched wall? The problem we have to tackle is a continuing conflict with the Arab world and the Palestinian people—this definitely troubles us.

Look, in my capacity as finance minister I review the state budget; what I see is that 40 percent of it is earmarked for debt repayment. Some of these are historical debts for military expenditures, and I am not blaming anyone. In addition, 22 percent of the state budget is allocated to defense expenditures that include the Defense Ministry, the Israel Police, the security forces, and so forth. These make up 62 percent of the budget. How long can we go on this way?

The situation is far worse in the Arab countries, which have totally lost control of their economies. The situation in Egypt and Jordan is very bad, while the situation in Syria is not any better. I say: What is the problem?

[Golan] The problem is a Palestinian one, Mr Peres. The assessment of the Center for Strategic Studies and of the Intelligence Branch is that talks with the PLO are inevitable because it is the only partner, but you still believe that the PLO's opposition to elections may be temporary. These are the partners with whom we have to negotiate.

[Peres] That may be so, but in view of its argument that all the inhabitants of the territories are PLO supporters, it should let them conduct negotiations. Why are they so obstinate? Why do they insist on us throwing a cocktail party for 'Arafat? If it is true that all the inhabitants of

the territories are of one mind with the PLO, why is the PLO not of one mind with them? Let the PLO allow the inhabitants of the territories to conduct negotiations.

Why does it oppose the notion? Why does it pull in the opposite direction? After all, it is not the PLO that has to make concessions to Israel; it is Israel that has to make concessions to the Palestinians. I do not understand why they insist so much and why we should give in to their dictate.

Many people have been saying for a long time that we should talk to the PLO. A long time ago that would have been a mistake, since the PLO did not recognize UN Resolutions 242 and 338 and was not prepared to negotiate; the PLO has also undergone some changes. Today, we are actually telling the Palestinians that whatever their opinions may be, we are prepared to sit with them.

We will not censor their opinions; we will only censor Molotov cocktails, stones, and bombs, which makes a lot of sense. We say to them: You live with us and reside in our midst. So, go to the ballot booth and cast your vote or choose a group with which we can conduct negotiations. [passage omitted]

[Golan] The same United States with which a rift was averted might in the near future exert pressure and say that the plan has been rejected and that another course should be taken.

[Peres] I doubt that. The United States has plenty of time; it is Israel that is running out of time. What is it so pressing to the United States? Time is not working in Israel's favor. Some may say: Wait a minute, let Israel stew in its own juice.

[Golan] For 3 or 4 years?

[Peres] I am not prepared to talk about years, but, say, for a few months or another year. Israel would not be getting stronger in the meantime.

[Golan] Speaking about the intifadah, do you not feel an intifadah is taking place within the Labor Party wholly directed at Shim'on Peres?

[Peres] I feel there are some colleagues in the leadership who give interviews to journalists describing the situation as an intifadah. When I meet people, I do not feel any criticism. Quite the contrary, what comes across is encouragement and trust and even a plea that I should not take any notice. What happens is that three or four journalists, who are also involved in and are part of the game....

[Golan, interrupting] There are also two to three contestants in your party.

[Peres] That is exactly what I say, that the contestants go to these journalists and, based on that, people make wrong assumptions about what is going on. Nothing is going on! Many of these stories are a figment of the imagination or black prophecies of journalists. You say there is an intifadah in the leadership, and I say there is massive grassroot support. Most people think that I, courageously, and not for any personal gains, took up one of the most difficult jobs. I try to deal with this job day and night.

[Golan] How can you lead a party when there are people breathing down your neck, waiting for you in the corner, and expecting you to make some slip? I would say that is an impossible mission.

[Peres] A party is not exactly a holiday resort. Those who cannot take the heat definitely break down, but those who can, stand up to the challenge.

[Golan] Are you not anxious about a contest versus Mordekhay Gur, Moshe Shahal, and Gad Ya'aqobi? Do they not threaten your leadership?

[Peres] I am ridden with anxieties, I cannot sleep at night. Really, do you think such a thing frightens me? They themselves say they want to run in 1992. I do not know why they hastened to bare their chests or other features. What did they gain? I also think they hurt themselves and do not benefit their party. Is this the problem now? I am really surprised at them. Is the most pressing problem at the moment who will head the party in 1992?

[Golan] They want to do that now, at the Central Committee session next Monday.

[Peres] No, on Monday they just want to lash out at me; not all of them, just one or two. [passage omitted]

Shahal Presents Peace Plan, Views Labor Party

TA1404083589 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 14 Apr 89 pp 5, 14

[Report on an interview with Energy and Infrastructure Minister Moshe Shahal by Dan Petreanu; date, place not given—italics as published]

[Excerpts] Moshe Shahal, one of the driving forces behind the creation of the unity government, says that he will be "the first to demand its dissolution if it will take us towards deadlock."

Shahal believes the government's present course, charted by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir during his trip to Washington that ended this week, may lead to worse than deadlock. In an interview with THE JERUSALEM POST, Shahal warns that Israel may "forfeit vital security needs" because of "Shamir's insistence on delaying all reference to the nature of the final settlement. [no closing quotation marks as published]

When Shahal, who several months ago announced his intention to challenge Shim'on Peres for the leadership of the Labour Party, describes his logic for favouring the government, he sounds almost exactly like Defence Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. Shahal reports that he "had the pleasure of giving Rabin" many of the ideas in the plan now attributed to the defence minister. [passage omitted]

Like Rabin, Shahal believes that the path to a "positive political solution" must run through an interim solution, "which can be made acceptable to both parties."

Rabin, however, argues that therefore all talk of the final settlement—in which the differences between Labour and Likud over territorial compromise become critical—be put aside, enabling smooth sailing for the unity government throughout the negotiations towards an interim settlement.

Shahal warns that by ignoring the need to relate to the final settlement today, Israel is by default allowing the vacuum to be filled by the assumption that the final settlement—withdrawal—will, like the interim settlement, apply to the entire West Bank and Gaza. "We may then lose all the territory."

Shahal smiles when it is suggested that the U.S. is not twisting Shamir's arm regarding the final settlement. "Look, people say Shamir was successful, but where's the success? The Americans said that his proposals should not be discounted, and are discussing them with the PLO and the Arabs. But we are witness to a dynamic of indirect negotiation with the PLO about the terms of the final settlement as well, without Israeli input."

Shahal's plan, which he intends to present to the government on Sunday during the discussion of Shamir's trip, is aimed at securing for Israel "a strategic understanding similar to the one we had in 1975 (in which the U.S. agreed not to negotiate with the PLO until certain conditions were met), that will also provide us with formal defence assurances."

He believes that if Israel "agreed in principle to 242"—meaning that it will eventually, as part of the final settlement, withdraw from *some* of the territories—the U.S. would agree not to support an Arab demand for a return to the pre-'67 borders and be willing to provide practical guarantees for Israel's security as part of the final arrangement—which Shahal, incidently, sees as a "Jordanian-Palestinian political entity that will settle the refugee problem as well."

The U.S. would also be willing, he believes, to agree to place new demands before Palestinian interlocutors, designed to fill in the gaps that most people in Israel believe remain after the Geneva statements. These include acceptance not only of Israel's existence but also its *right* to exist; acceptance of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 *without* the "additional resolutions," (such as that calling for a partition of the country); complete disengagement from terror; and acceptance of the finality of the settlement, including the renunciation of the "right of return."

These principles, and the additional element of U.S. security guarantees, is what Israel could gain if the Likud agreed to the principle of exchanging territories for peace as part of the final settlement, which—Shahal believes—is inevitable anyway.

Shahal understands that this contradicts the logic of setting up the coalition with the Likud under terms of consensus, but believes that Labour's role in the government, now that the process is under way, is to "explain and convince."

"The fact is that we are having a decisive influence over the government," he maintains, adding that without Labour's presence in the government Shamir would not even have proposed elections in the territories. At this point, he says, the government has adopted, if not Labour's long-term goals, its short-term tactics. In the near future, he believes, the Likud may accept his logic about the need to adopt the principle of "territories for peace" as well.

"The Likud realizes that no settlement is possible without some withdrawal—even Likud ministers, privately, admit that without a territorial compromise there will be no settlement." So, if admitting this publicly will serve to reduce the price Israel will eventually pay, why not publicly admit it?

"I want to give the Likud a chance to adopt this position," he says. After Sunday's cabinet meeting, he adds, "we'll see where things stand."

Those who argue that Labour's presence in the government has hurt the party electorally "are working out of personal interests," says Shahal. "No one can determine what the public feels. And Labour's problem is not only in the governmental arena. We very urgently need to address fundamental questions. For example, what are the security needs we will fight for in negotiations."

Although Shahal insists that the issues are ideological and not personal, he has been among the more vocal in calling for the replacement of party leader Peres. His relations with Rabin have also soured lately, as the defence minister has appeared increasingly like a future candidate for prime minister.

Referring to party leader Shim'on Peres, Shahal says: "All over the world, candidates who lose elections disappear. With us, people lose elections again and again and they continue at their post. Don't forget that Peres was the one who legitimized the idea of competition in 1974 when he opposed Rabin..."

Referring to Rabin, Shahal maintains that "there is a legitimate question of passing the mantle from one generation in the party to the next. It's urgently needed because the party is entering a deep freeze not only ideologically but in terms of its people." [passage omitted]

Mitzna' on 'Serious' Incident at Nahhalin

TA1404112489 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 14 Apr 89 pp 1, 22

[Report by Joel Greenberg and Mikhal Sela']

[Excerpts] OC [Commanding Officer] Central Command 'Amram Mitzna' has appointed a team of senior officers to investigate yesterday's clash at Nahhalin, southwest of Bethlehem, in which Border Police shot and killed at least four villagers and wounded some 20 others, two of them seriously, according to hospital accounts.

"This was an exceptional and serious incident, both in the way it was handled or took place, and in the number of casualties," Mitzna' told reporters.

The incident appeared to have provoked disagreement between the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and Border Police over the action of Border Policemen in the village. Mitzna' said that beyond the inquiry he had ordered, there would have to be a more thorough investigation by the Military Police of soldiers' behaviour "and especially by the police of the Border Police force..." [passage omitted]

According to Mitzna', a company of Border Police was sent into Nahhalin before dawn to carry out arrests, search for wanted youths, collect intelligence information and search for weapons. The operation, which also included the neighbouring village of Jaba', was overseen by the area commander from a post overlooking the villages.

Mitzna' said that though the IDF's policy has been to stay out of villages in order to reduce friction with the local population, it was decided to enter Nahhalin after groups of local youths had been invloved in stone- and petrol-bomb-attacks on Israeli cars traveling on main roads and in vandalisation of fields and orchards belonging to settlements in the neighbouring Gush 'Ezyon. Mitzna' characterized Nahhalin as "a very violent village, with an extremist Islamic tendency."

On the outskirts of the village, the Border Police encountered stone roadblocks and youths who "hurled stones of various types, used other means at their disposal, endangering the force," Mitzna' said. The ensuing clash lasted more than half an hour, leaving four dead and 11 wounded, including two seriously wounded, and a woman heart patient who was overcome by tear-gas, Mitzna' continued. He added that two of those killed were known activists, and one was affiliated with the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) and had been arrested in the past.

IDF reinforcements were rushed to Nahhalin, a brief curfew was imposed, and later troops sealed off the village and a helicopter circled overhead.

According to villagers, the clash followed two days of harassment by Border Police, who, they said, broadcast sexual insults at women over jeep loudspeakers. A delegation of community leaders went to complain about the Border Police's conduct to the Bethlehem military governor, but received no commitment that the harassment would stop.

On Tuesday, there were scattered stone-throwing clashes with the Border Police and on Wednesday, the Border Police warned that they would return at night, villagers said.

(Mitzna' said no Border Police had been inside the village in recent weeks, and that the unit operating yesterday was brought in from Hebron, and was not normally stationed near the village.) [passage omitted]

Red Cross Protests Deaths

TA1404134389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Excerpt] The International Red Cross [IRC] today submitted to Israel its protest at the killing of six Arabs yesterday in the village of Nahhalin. The violence occurred, according to the Red Cross, because the shooting was indiscriminate and with no self-restraint.

In a message published in Geneva today, the IRC says that it has been worried for some time by Israel's frequent use of firearms and physical violence against defenseless civilians. The IRC calls on Israel urgently to stop violating basic human principles.

Our correspondent Arye Gus notes that the investigating committee appointed last night by Major General 'Amram Mitzna' to examine the events in Nahhalin stipulated beyond doubt that four Arabs were killed there, as opposed to the IRC statement numbering the death toll at six. [passage omitted]

Frayj Protests 'Massacre'

TA1404064789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj has said that a massacre took place in the village of Nahhalin yesterday and is demanding the setting up of an inquiry committee headed by a High Court judge.

He told our correspondent Arye Gus that Israelis and Arabs must know exactly what happened in the village. Frayj said there was no provocation in Nahhalin.

The Bethlehem town council is convening this morning to discuss the event.

Bethlehem Council on 'Crime'

JN1404114089 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1105 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Telephone interview with Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj by Ibrahim Shahid on 14 April, carried within the "With the Midday Events" feature—live or recorded]

[Text] [Shahid] Good evening, Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj.

[Frayj] Good evening.

[Shahid] The Bethlehem municipal council today held a lengthy emergency session, which has just ended. Could you brief us on the topics discussed at this session?

[Frayj] The municipal council held a session today during which it met with a delegation representing the inhabitants of Nahhalin. The council was acquainted with the details of the crime committed in Nahhalin at dawn on Thursday. The council issued a statement denouncing and condemning an army unit's actions in Nahhalin, which inflamed the situation and led to the martyrdom or injury of a large number of citizens.

The citizens stressed to us that there were no demonstrations or stone throwing. We, as Bethlehem citizens and as a municipal council, condemn this act. We have sent a cable on this to the defense minister through the official in charge of the occupied territories.

[Shahid] Thank you, Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj.

[Frayj] You are welcome.

Strikes Held in West Bank Towns Over Deaths

TA1404083989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] There is a general strike in several towns in Judaea and Samaria to protest the killing of the youths in the village of Nahhalin. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that there is a strike in Tulkarm, Bethlehem, and Qalqilyah.

The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] set up roadblocks at the entrances to Jerusalem to prevent youths from entering the town and reaching the Temple Mount.

Hebron and Nabulus were declared closed military zones. The curfew on Nahhalin continues.

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 14 April on page 22 reports that: "In Gaza yesterday, Palestinian sources reported 13 shooting injuries during demonstrations that erupted upon hearing of the events in Nahhalin. The IDF spokesman said one person was wounded. In Rafah, about 200 youngsters marched through town in formation carrying Palestinian flags without the army interfering, according to Palestinian sources. A 20-year-old woman and her 17-year-old brother, however, were wounded by plastic bullets in clashes that developed shortly after the parade. In Al-Nusayrat, three people were wounded, one each in the Al-Shati' and Al-Burayj refugee camps, and in Khan Yunus a 55-year-old woman and a 15-year-old boy were shot and wounded."]

Entrance to Jerusalem Temple Mount Restricted

TA1404061989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Excerpts] Thousands of policemen have been deployed in Jerusalem for this morning's prayers on the Temple Mount. Additional forces have been deployed in East Jerusalem. Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that the police are restricting the entrance of residents from the territories to Jerusalem, while entrance to the Temple Mount is being restricted for Jerusalem residents.

Minister Bar-Lev and Police Commissioner Kraus will command the forces. Several Arab Knesset Members will join the worshippers. The police are prepared to prevent stone throwing from the Temple Mount at the Wailing Wall.

In the Muslim Quarter last night, police fired rubber bullets and used tear gas while pursuing a group of masked young men who hurled stones at them. Five suspects were detained. Jerusalem's deputy mufti, Shaykh Al-Jamal, claims that the smoke from the tear gas penetrated the Temple Mount mosques. [passage omitted]

In Samaria, there were many stone-throwing incidents at Israeli vehicles in the past 24 hours. Windows were smashed in several incidents, and a resident of the settlement of 'Enav was scratched by flying glass. [passage omitted]

Curfews have been clamped on most of the Gaza Strip refugee camps.

Police Deny Waqf Jurisdiction

TA1404093989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] In an extraordinary move, the police have removed the Moors' Gate area of the Temple Mount from the jurisdiction of the Waqf from 0900 until the last worshippers disband at midday.

Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that the move was decided on during the week, and the Waqf management was informed after Police Affairs Minister Hayim Bar-Lev approved it. The police intend to take this action each Friday from now on, in reaction to the serious events on the Temple Mount last Friday. The

Waqf was shocked by the announcement. The decision will be revoked only if the Waqf proves it is capable of controlling the worshippers and if order is maintained during the prayers.

Our correspondent adds that seizing the Moor's Gate will prevent Arab worshippers from coming close to the Wailing Wall on their way to and from the Temple Mount mosques.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0930 GMT on 14 April adds that "the decision to seize the Moors' Gate was made by the police affairs and defense ministers, following consultations with Ministers Peres and Arens."]

Polish Religious Affairs Minister Arrives

TA0604130589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Text] The Polish minister of religious affairs landed at Ben-Gurion airport some time ago as the guest of Religious Affairs Minister Zvulun Hammer. Our correspondent Rafi Shalhin reports from the transmission van at Ben-Gurion:

[Begin recording] [Shalhin] Dr Wladyslaw Loranc, Polish religious affairs minister, arrived half an hour ago aboard the direct flight from Warsaw of the Polish national airline, Lot. At Ben-Gurion airport, Religious Affairs Minister Zvulun Hammer, Foreign Ministry officials, and (Mark Jatikowski), a representative of the Polish interests desk, were on the tarmac to welcome the guest.

Dr Loranc said that his visit reflects the fact that relations between the two countries are developing in the right direction, although there are still many things that need to be improved.

[Loranc speaks in Polish followed by Shalhin's translation] The fact that the religious affairs minister is the first Polish official to visit Israel since relations were severed in 1967 indicates a desire to maintain the ties between the two nations, ties that have existed for hundreds of years. [sentence as received]

We asked Religious Affairs Minister Zvulun Hammer what issues will be raised at the working sessions with the visiting minister.

[Hammer] They are interested, as we are, in discussing the issue of cemeteries, synagogues, remnants of communities, and so on. What you have asked, however, is something that interests us as well: In Poland there are 5,000 Jews, although some say the number is 15,000.

Naturally, they are loyal Polish citizens, but the State of Israel takes into consideration their moral, spiritual, religious, and cultural tradition, and we would like to discuss the possibility of attaining some degree of dialogue with them. We will discuss all this during the forthcoming week.

[Shalhin] Mr Wladyslaw Loranc, Polish minister of religious affairs, will open his official tour with a visit to the Yad Vashem Museum. His visit to Israel will last 1 week, during which he will meet with public figures and Knesset members, and will tour Jerusalem and Galilee sites held sacred by Christians. [end recording]

Minister 'Optimistic' on Ties

TA1304130489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Excerpts] The Polish minister of religious affairs, whose lengthy visit to Israel ends today, says he is optimistic. His summary is: The normalization process between Poland and Israel is moving forward rapidly.

Israeli Minister of Religious Affairs Zvulun Hammer says that reciprocal visits by ministers of religious affairs from East Bloc countries are a convenient way to thaw relations.

Our correspondent Rafi Shalhin, who attended the news conference convened by the two ministers of religious affairs, reports:

This is not my last official visit to Israel, says Dr Wladyslaw Loranc, Polish minister of religious affairs, at the conclusion of his visit here. The normalization process between Poland and Israel is progressing rapidly. As minister of religious affairs, I cannot say when diplomatic relations will be resumed. Were a priest or a rabbi sitting here in my place, he would probably point to heaven, saying that the answer lies there.

I have invited Minister Hammer for a visit; he has accepted and will come soon. [passage omitted]

We will continue receiving Israeli youth delegations that will help us restore Jewish cemeteries.

Minister Hammer announced that it was agreed in the work meetings to set up a joint committee for the conservation and restoration of Jewish community sites in Poland. It was further decided that spiritual leaders from Israel would be sent to Poland, and that Israeli experts would move to Israel sacred books that survived the Holocaust. [passage omitted]

Argentina's Defense Minister Arrives for Talks

TA0304060789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Argentina's Defense Minister Jose Horacio Jaunarena has arrived in Israel at the invitation of Defense Minister Rabin. He will be received in an official ceremony and guard of honor at the Defense Ministry today. Jaunarena will visit the defense industries and Israeli army bases and will hold talks with the defense establishment.

Meets With Rabin

TA0304171389 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Argentina's defense minister was received with full military ceremony at the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv. The Argentinian minister is the guest of Yitzhaq Rabin. Our military correspondent 'Amos Har'el reports on the meeting:

An official ceremony was held at the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv this morning in honor of Argentinian Defense Minister Jose Horacio Jaunarena. After the ceremony, the visiting minister met with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. In the course of their meeting, the two ministers discussed future relations between the defense establishments of both countries, especially with regard to military procurements on both sides. The two ministers praised the fabric of relations between Israel and Argentina.

Lieutenant General Dan Shomron, the chief of staff, and Air Force Commander Avihu Bin-Nun also participated in the meeting. The Argentinian defense minister was accompanied by the commander of the Argentinian Air Force.

The guest from Argentina, for whom this is the first time in Israel, will stay here until the end of the week. Among other places, he will visit the Air Force, the navy, the Israel Aircraft Industries, and the Israel Military Industries.

The FRG defense minister will be Rabin's guest next week.

Argentina Looking at Kfir Jets

TA0404082789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] Argentina has expressed interest in buying the Israeli-made Kfir fighter jets. The Argentine minister of defense, currently in Israel, raised the issue yesterday in talks with defense officials.

Senior sources told the Voice of Israel that a recent deal to send such jets to the Argentine was canceled because of American opposition. The engine used in the Kfir is U.S.-manufactured and Washington has a veto over export of the plane.

Our reporter says the issue of Argentinian aid to Iraq and cooperation with Egypt in building long-range missiles was not raised in yesterday's discussions.

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 4 April in a related report on page 12 by Kenneth Kaplan adds that "during his meeting with Rabin, (Jose Horacio) Jaunarena also raised the sensitive issue of submarines. Jaunarena asked his Israeli counterpart several questions concerning the Navy's plans to purchase submarines, which Argentina reportedly once offered to sell Israel. He reminded his host that Argentina has already contracted to buy a number of vessels from a West German shipyard. Following a directive from Rabin, the defence establishment is about to reassess last year's decision to purchase two diesel-powered submarines as part of the Navy's $1.2 billion procurement project."]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 4 April reports that speaking last night at a dinner in honor of Jaunarena, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that "a decade of cooperation on defense-related issues between the two countries has formed a reciprocal commitment." Rabin added that Israel fulfilled all its promises to Argentina, even when this was difficult, and that as a country which is under a state of siege and in a war against terror, Israel must "demand a similar attitude from those who have a commitment to us."]

Minister on Relations

TA0704203389 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 7 Apr 89 p 22

[Report on interview with Argentine Defense Minister Dr Jose Horacio Juanarena by Shlomo Slutzky, date and place not given]

[Text] When Argentine Defense Minister Dr Jose Horacio Juanarena left on a business trip to Israel, he already knew that by the following day the newspapers would report the resignation of the Alfonsin government's economic cabinet. It was to be expected, what with a monthly 20-percent rate of inflation, a 300-percent hike in the value of the U.S. dollar, a tremendous erosion in income for most of the people, and the presidential elections due to take place in a month on 14 May.

This will be the first time in 40 years that a democratic government in Argentina will complete its term in office. According to all the polls, the next government will be formed by Carlos Menem, a Peronist of Arab descent.

Juanarena is the third defense minister in Alfonsin's government. Toward the end of his trip to Israel, there was a sudden spate of media items about cooperation between Argentina and Iraq on the construction of a long-range missile, and Argentina's delivery of a nuclear reactor to Algeria.

Juanarena says: "If you trace the source of these reports, you will discover that they lead to the British Foreign Office. There is not a kernel of truth in the two charges you mentioned. It is no coincidence that these reports reached Israel from British sources, and just at this time. We are talking about a psychological war directed by Britain against Argentina."

[Slutzky] Was a deal signed for Israeli Kfir jets in exchange for Argentine submarines?

[Juanarena] We agreed to continue the negotiations on procuring a number of Kfir fighter jets. At the same time, the possibility of the Israeli navy buying Argentine

submarines is also being examined. We have decided to send a few Argentine Pampa trainer aircraft to be tested by your pilots before going through with the purchases.

[Slutzky] What do you need weapons for at all?

[Juanarena] Only for defensive purposes. Argentina has regional problems that compel it to maintain a certain level of readiness.

[Slutzky] Alfonsin once spoke of reducing the Army.

[Juanarena] Certainly. While we recruited 100,000 soldiers annually up until 1983, today, despite the growth in population, we only draft 30,000. We have cut the defense budget down from 4 percent to 1.8 percent of the GNP.

[Slutzky] Carlos Menem has already declared that Argentina will reclaim the Falkland Islands, "no matter how much blood will flow."

[Juanarena] You must ask Menem himself about this statement. We in the Radical Civic Union have no plans for a new war in the area.

[Slutzky] But Menem will probably be president.

[Juanarena] It is still too early to make predictions. The gap between Menem and the Radical Civic Union candidate has recently narrowed to 7 percent, and 30 percent of voters are still undecided. Most of the undecided voters voted for the Radical Civic Union in 1983. They will swing the vote this time as well. I believe that the reshuffle in the economic cabinet gives rise to new hope.

[Slutzky] Does it not actually constitute an admission of failure in economic policy?

[Juanarena] Even if that were so, accepting criticism and admitting failure show intelligence. Only an idiot refuses to admit failure.

[Slutzky] Would you not say that the formation of the Argentine National Security Council, involving the three branches of the military, spells a reversal of the process of cutting back on the Army's authority?

[Juanarena] Not at all. This is only an advisory council to the president, not a body which can make decisions.

[Slutzky] This body was set up following an armed operation by a left-wing group. This operation was forcibly squashed by the security forces, the same forces that have taken such an indulgent attitude to the recurrent attempts by Army officers to overthrow the government over the last 2 years.

[Juanarena] Those mutinies were an internal Army matter, which the Army had to handle, while the other matter was a clandestine leftist organization which threatened national security. The National Security Council's task is to advise on means to combat such phenomena.

[Slutzky] Many doubt the possibility that Carlos Menem could head a democratic government. He is known for his connections with the Army personnel who took part in the recent attempts at toppling the government. Do you feel Argentina is mature enough to preserve its democracy, even in the event of a different party assuming power?

[Juanarena] I can only assure the path of my own party. It is obvious that the Argentine people are ready for democracy.

Foreign Minister Returns From Kuwait Meeting

JN1404133389 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] Amman—Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, returned to Amman this afternoon after taking part in the meetings of the Arab League's six-member committee charged with treating the Lebanese crisis, which met in Kuwait with representatives of the Lebanese Front.

Al-Qasim stated that the committee listened to the opinions and proposals of the Lebanese Front and discussed with them the six-member committee's initial concept of the way to solve the crisis.

Al-Qasim added that representatives of the Lebanese Front explained their position on this plan, pointing out that the six-member committee is currently preparing its final plan for solving the Lebanese crisis in light of all the ideas and proposals it heard from all concerned Lebanese sides.

All-Qasim expressed the hope that all warring sides in Lebanon will respond to the repeated calls on the need to cease firing and begin the phase of national political dialogue to end bloodletting and save Lebanon.

Al-Rifa'i on Arab Cooperation Council Agreements

JN1204185289 Amman Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] The Prime Minister Mr Zayd al-Rifa'i said today that the Ministerial Commission of the Arab Cooperation Council—the ACC—which concluded its meetings in Baghdad today, has approved principles and procedures for both the High and Ministerial Commissions of the Council.

It has also approved the headquarters agreement between Jordan and the Council Secretariat and an agreement on the privileges of the status of the Council's staff, as well as the constituent and financial structures.

Speaking to reporters upon return to Amman from Baghdad, where he had attended the ACC meetings, Mr al-Rifa'i said the Council's Ministerial Commission discussed and approved draft resolutions on coordination in security affairs, national and regional security, employment, and movement of nationals of member states, as well as cooperation in the fields of air transport and civil aviation and coordination among ACC foreign ministers, along with a decision on organizing communications between the Secretariat and the ACC member states.

The prime minister indicated that the Ministerial Commission approved an agreement on legal and judicial cooperation and agreed in principle on Jordan's views on scopes of cooperation among member states.

The prime minister said the commission reviewed nominations for the posts of the secretary general of the ACC and drew up a list of names.

The prime minister said all these decisions, agreements, and recomendations will be referred to the ACC High Commission at its summit meeting in Cairo due to be held immediately after the 'Id al-Fitr.

If the leaders of the Council approve and sign them, he said, they will be implemented immediately.

The prime minister said the nomination of the ACC secretary general will be a decision of the Council's leaders at their summit.

Energy Minister Denies Oil Discoveries

JN0804150189 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 6 Apr 89 pp 1, 27

[By 'Abdallah al-Qaq]

[Excerpt] Dr Hisham al-Khatib, Jordanian minister of energy and mineral resources, has stated that the Jordanian Government will not devalue the dinar and that during the recent talks with the IMF representatives no mention was made of adjusting the Jordanian dinar or lifting government subsidies for foodstuffs.

In an interview with AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM, Dr Al-Khatib asserted that the dinar rate will remain within the fixed equation—that is $2—and that the government subsidy for foodstuffs will remain at the current level, which is estimated at 60 million dinars.

Regarding reports of a recent discovery of quantities of oil, the minister said: No oil fields have been discovered, although we had hoped that this would happen. He said that all oil exploration work so far has not yielded positive results.

Answering a question on the customs charged to expatriates and the possibility of allowing them to bring in cars, he said: The government has taken appropriate measures on this subject. The government's cars are also subject to customs according to certain criteria and procedures.

Al-RA'Y AL-'AMM asked the minister about the means to find the necessary money to repay Jordan's debts and reshedule them in light of the halt in Arab aid.

The minister said that the government is studying with great interest all these matters and will exert every effort to repay the debts. We trust that the fraternal countries will support Jordan in its needs to confront the current phase, he said. [passage omitted]

AL-DUSTUR Hails IMF Approval of Measures

JN1104154189 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
11 Apr 89 pp 1, 15

[Editorial: "A Good International Attestation to the Soundness of our Economic Trends"]

[Text] The economic conditionality program, which has been agreed on with the IMF's mission, expresses the confidence of this high-level international monetrary body in the soundness of the financial, monetary, and economic meaures and policies that have been adopted by the government since last fall.

The letter of intent, which will be signed with the IMF soon, also affirms that the measures that Jordan has taken are on the right track.

After its objective assessment of the existing economic situation, the IMF's mission stressed that the current exchange rate of the dinar is realistic and suitable and that there is no need to readjust it.

This can be viewed as a certificate of confidence in our national currency by a international monetary body, whose views and assessments are adopted on a large international scale.

There is no doubt that this positive judgment of the IMF's mission in favor of the national economy, the dinar, and the investment climate will contribute positively to efforts to overcome the difficulties in the current economic phase through adopting policies aimed at achieving balanced growth in the national economy, which may require a reduction in the budget decficit, an improvement of the balance of payments, a suitable investment climate, an increase in foreign currency from exports, and a build-up of the Kingdom's reserves of foreign currency.

In light of this, Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i had to stress the important role of the commercial banks in this delicate stage of our national march because these banks are an instrument for accumulating and using savings in productive investment by the private sector.

Moreover, these banks shoulder special responsibilities in facilitating the citizens' obtaining their legitimate needs for foreign currency.

As a result, we hope the banking sector will respond to these trends, especially since the important economic conditionality program reached between the government and the IMF will reflect positively on the investment climate and confidence in the future of the national economy.

Undoubtedly, this should prompt the various sectors and functionaries of the national economy to support these honest, positive trends and the series of corrective measures in the various economic fields. Any such support for these measures will also reflect on the final results of local economic and social activities.

U.S. Condemnation of Nahhalin 'Massacre' Urged

JN1404102889 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
14 Apr 89 pp 1, 15

[Editorial: "Still Thirsty Wolves"]

[Text] After a quarter of a century, the fierce Israeli wolves have returned to attack the village of Nahhalin, bringing back to memory the ugly, bloody picture that has stigmatized Israel since its establishment and reaffirming the criminal nature of the Shamir-Rabin government and other killers.

Storming a small Palestinian village like Nahhalin and perpetrating another extremely ugly massacre there are cogent proof that the rulers of Tel Aviv have not yet quenched their thirst for Palestinian Arab blood despite all the blood they have shed not only since the beginning of the intifadah [uprising] but also throughout the past 4 decades.

There is no doubt that the timing of this new massacre, which Israel has committed in cold blood, explains the message which the Shamir-Rabin government wanted to communicate to all calling for peace and insisting on achieving it.

The message is that Israel has not yet satisfied its hunger for war, is still bloodthirsty, and is uninterested in such peaceful calls, which Shamir did not hesitate to spurn even when he was in the United States itself.

Hence, we believe the timing of this shameful massacre is in direct defiance of the U.S. Administration's multilateral diplomatic efforts to achieve progress toward ending the Israeli occupation and acknowledging the Palestinian Arab people's political rights.

In view of all this, it is important for the United States to declare its condemnation and resentment of such horrible, criminal behavior by the Israeli military occupation forces against defenseless civilians who, like all other peoples, are demanding right, justice, freedom, peace, and independence.

As we denounce this ugly, barbaric crime and hold the Shamir-Rabin government politically and ethically accountable for such terrorist behavior, we are fully confident that the intifadah masses, whose will and determination has remained strong desipte all Zionist means of killing, repression, and siege, will know how to turn this crime into another lighthouse along the road to freedom and another station toward an advanced stage of valiant struggle against the Israeli occupiers.

3 Unidentified Vessels Reportedly Hit

NC1304192189 Paris AFP in English 1837 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Excerpts] Beirut, April 13 (AFP)—At least 24 people were killed Thursday as rival gunners pounded Beirut and the eastern Al-Biqa' Valley with hundreds of shells, hospital sources said, while a French aid mission was delayed.

The latest escalation between Christian-led Lebanese Army troops and Syrian forces backed by Lebanese Moslem and leftist allies spread to almost one-third of the country and came on the 15th anniversary of Lebanon's war.

Hospital sources said at least 24 people were killed—20 of them in Syrian-controlled areas—and 67 injured in the day-long fighting. Fierce shelling continued into the night.

The clashes, which erupted one month ago, have now left at least 195 dead and 855 wounded, according to a toll compiled by AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE from hospital reports.

Amid a new dispute over French aid to Lebanon, two French naval vessels, including a hospital ship, kept at least 12 nautical miles from land, out of Lebanese territorial waters, security sources said.

The ships, carrying medicine and fuel, were due to have started taking on board casualties at 4 p.m. (1400 GMT), according to a French envoy here.

But the contested Christian government, led by General Michel 'Awn, accused "the Syrian occupier" of trying to disrupt the arrival of the tanker "Penhors" and hospital ship "Rance". [passage omitted]

In the war at sea, an Italian tanker off the coast of Beirut was Thursday struck by a shell, which tore a hole in it but inflicting no casualties, maritime sources announced in Rome.

Security sources here meanwhile cited reports that another three unidentified vessels were hit, including a ship attacked by a naval vessel outside Lebanon's territorial waters. [passage omitted]

Italian Tanker Said Bombarded by Syrians

NC1304181389 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] According to the Italian Merchant Marine Ministry, an Italian tanker carrying a cargo of sulfuric acid was hit by an artillery shell this morning off the Beirut coast. No crew members were injured. The Italian ministry added that the ship returned to international waters and anchored 30 miles offshore.

Voice of Lebanon has learned that the ship "Isola Azzurra" was bombarded by the Syrians from West Beirut while it was sailing to the port of Sil'ata. According to our reports, the attack on the ship made a hole 1.5 meters in diameter. However, the ship managed to reach Cyprus. The attack has caused an uproar in Italy.

Cypriot-Registered Ship Hit; Sailor Killed

NC1404152089 Paris AFP in English 1501 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] Aboard the French hospital ship "La Range," April 14 (AFP)—A Polish sailor was fatally wounded and another injured as a mortar struck a Cypriot-registered ship in waters off Beirut, French naval sources said Friday.

The "Gull," a freighter on route from the United States, suffered a direct hit Thursday about five to six nautical miles (10 kilometers) offshore, the sources said. Two more shells crashed into the sea nearby, but the ship was only slightly damaged.

Srtanilaw Gniaz died of his injuries while his colleague Sygmunt Karcmarczyk was treated by doctors on "La Rance," a French Navy hospital ship, before returning to his vessel.

The "Rance" and an oil tanker, part of a French war relief effort for Lebanon, have been stationed in international waters some 12 nautical miles off the Lebanese coast awaiting an accord to approach the mainland.

French envoy Bernard Kouchner continued his talks Friday with Lebanese officials in a bid to seek permission for the ships to approach Beirut.

Maritime sources in Rome said an Italian tanker off the Lebanese coast was also struck by a shell Thursday, tearing a hole in its hull but inflicting no casualties.

In Paris, the naval command said Friday that two French Navy ships were keeping the "Rance" "under distant surveillance."

The two sides involved in the latest escalation in Lebanon, Lebanese Army units loyal to Christian leader General Michel 'Awn and Syrian troops backed by their Lebanese Moslem allies, have imposed a blockade on the country's ports.

Shaykh Sabah Urges 'Non-Israeli Forces' Pullout

NC1304155789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] In the light of the grave security developments and the Syrian aggression, and following a meeting with the Lebanese front delegation in Kuwait, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad Al Sabah, Kuwaiti foreign minister and chairman of the Arab League committee, has called for Israeli and non-Israeli forces to withdraw from Lebanon.

In a statement to correspondents, Shaykh Sabah said: We are unanimous in asking that Israeli and non-Israeli forces leave Lebanon so that it can reconstruct itself.

This is the first time since the Arab committee was formed in January that Al-Sabah has referred to the presence of Syrian forces in Lebanon, although he does not name them.

West Beirut Army Command Issues Communique

NC1304185789 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] The Army Command's Guidance Directorate in West Beirut issued the following communique this evening: The Al-Yarzah command ruined [atahat] the cease-fire today after violating it yesterday. Its heavy artillery pounded residential quarters in Beirut, the suburbs, the mountain, and Al-Biqa' while its tanks shelled areas opposite the contact lines. Not a single area in Beirut or the suburbs was spared from the indiscriminate and destructive shelling.

The bombardment also covered the villages of 'Alayh, Baysur, Qurnayil, Al-Ma'rufiyah, Majdalayya, Khaldah, 'Aramun, Shtawrah, Sa'd Nayil, Ta'lbaya, Maksah, Al-Mudayrij, Judaytah, Talya, Hazzin, Brital, Qabb Ilyas, and Barr Ilyas.

A total of 9 people were killed and over 20 wounded, according to a count made when this communique was prepared at 1700 today. Heavy property damage was also reported.

The bombardment also targeted the Beirut air base and some military centers, causing the martyrdom of a soldier and wounding two others.

The Army Command in Beirut draws the public's attention, and especially that of the Arab League ministerial committee, to the gravity of the situation the ruling military group has brought about to cover its political failure on the local and international levels. Meanwhile, the command declares that it and all the national forces targeted by shelling were compelled to react and direct concerted fire at the military positions and artillery emplacements which participated in today's attacks.

Christian Shelling Reaches Al-Biqa'; 9 Killed

NC1304165389 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1530 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Excerpts] Attacks by the 'Awn-Ja'Ja' groups are continuing against the various nationalist areas, inflicting more casualties. [passage omitted]

Since midday, shells have been falling on West Beirut and the southern suburbs. The attacks are concentrated on Al-Barbir, Barbur, 'Ayn al-Muraysah, Al-Manarah, Al-Tariq al-Jadidah, Al-Bastah, Al-Nuwayri, Al-Mazra'ah, Corniche al-Mazra'ah, and Al-Ramlah al-Bayda'. Shells have also fallen on Khaldah, 'Aramun, and Al-Shuwayfat. [passage omitted]

Since 1430 the scope of the attacks has expanded to include several villages in central Al-Biqa' and northern Al-Matn. The villages of Shtawrah, Maksah, Judaytah, Qabb Ilyas, Barr Ilyas, Bwar, Sa'd Nayil, the outskirts of Zahlah, B'alabakk, Tarshish, Brital, Majdalun, Ta'lbaya, Al-Murayjat, Al-Muruj, 'Aynturah, and Buluyna are coming under barrages of artillery and rocket fire. The shelling is originating from the positions of the 'Awn-Ja'ja' cliques in Mazra'at Kafr Dhibian, Faqra, Rumyah, Al-Safra, Dayr al-Qal'ah, Shalimar, and 'Ashqut.

Khaldah, 'Aramun, Al-Dawhah, Dayr Qubil, Al-Shuwayfat, 'Alayh, Sawfar, Baysur, 'Aytat, and 'Ayn Nub are also coming under heavy artillery bombardment. [passage omitted]

So far 9 people have been martyred and 20 wounded as a result of today's attacks. The dead include 2 people from Maksah village in Al-Biqa' and another 2 people from Sa'd Nayil, also in Al-Biqa'. A man was also killed at the Brital crossroads in Al-Biqa'. An Army corporal was killed at the military air base at Beirut International Airport, which was shelled by phosphorous bombs. Three people were killed in Al-Sana'i in West Beirut. [passage omitted]

Syrian Convoy Said Destroyed by Lebanese Army

NC1304200189 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] The Lebanese Army destroyed a Syrian convoy on the Sawfar-Al-Mudayrij road before 2100 today.

Syrians Continue Attacks With Rocket Launchers

NC1304204089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2005 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] Rocket launchers are still firing at central and coastal Kasrawan, the Defense Ministry vicinity, Al-Hazimiyah, B'abda and the Republican palace vicinity.

We received information a short while ago that Syrian trucks carrying rocket launchers are moving from the Al-Awza'i area towards Al-Maramil and from the military beach area.

15 Dead, 40 Injured in Intensive Bombardment

NC1304204889 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Excerpt] Since dawn the eastern areas have suffered this long day of continuing Syrian security incidents. This day, with its horrors, destruction, and gunfire, has been a microcosm of the Lebanese war which ended its 14th year today.

Today's eruption has been the most violent one since the Arab-sponsored cease-fire was announced 9 days ago. The series of infernal bombardments on this explosive Thursday has engulfed the various combat lines in fire and poured shells and rockets on residential areas extending from Suq al-Gharb to the capital, southern and northern Al-Matn, Kasrawan, and Jubayl.

The attacks have caused a large number of casualties in the eastern and western areas; preliminary counts estimated the casualties at 15 dead and 40 injured. This casualty toll, however, is not final because it is difficult to count the number of dead and wounded during the intensive shelling against the innocent.

For the second time since 14 March, clashes have been reported along the Dayr Billa-Shinta lines in the Jubayl hills. These began at approximately 1700 today and have been accompanied by artillery bombardment of villages and township in the Jubayl and Al-Batrun ridges.

At approximately 1830 the Jubayl and Al-Batrun hills were the targets of intermittent shelling which continued until 1915 today. Central Kasrawan was also subjected to intermittent bombardment.

At 1915 the situation erupted again, and the shelling was directed at Bsaba, Al-Hazimiyah, Al-Hadath, B'abda, Al-Fayyadiyah, Al-Yarzah, Al-Jumhur, 'Ayn al-Rummanah, and coastal Al-Matn.

The bombardment, which appeared to be frenzied at times, began at 0500 today and then abated and became sporadic. At 1140 it again intensified in a frenzied manner and was directed at Al-Kahhalah, Al-Hadath, B'abda, Al-Jumhur, Al-Hazimiyah, Al-Luwayzah, 'Ayn al-Rummanah, Furn al-Shubbak, Al-Ashrafiyah, the port of Beirut, the coasts of Al-Matn and Kasrawan, central Al-Matn and Kasrawan, and Coastal and Upper Jubayl.

The sources of the gunfire against the eastern areas have been determined to be in the Beirut Airport area, Dayr Qubil, the Al-Damur vicinity, West Beirut, Al-Raml Al-'Ali, 'Aramun, Al-Shuwayfat, Al-Dubbiyah, and Al-Biqa'. The Lebanese Army responded appropriately to the fire and silenced its sources. According to security sources, the Lebanese Army also shelled Syrian positions, centers, and troop assembly points in Shtawrah, the outskirts of Ba'labakk, Brital, Majdalun, Talya, Barr Ilyas, Al-Murayjat, Al-Muruj, and 'Aynturah.

Media sources in West Beirut said that the shelling also hit Qabb Ilyas, Ta'nayil, Bawarij, Ta'labaya, Sa'd Nayil, and Qurnayil. The same sources also reported that shells fell in Al-Hamra', Al-Sana'i, Sabra, Al-Tariq al-Jadidah, the municipal recreation ground, the UNESCO area, Burj al-Murr, Al-Ramlan al-Bayda', the airport road, Al-Maramil, Harat Hurayk, Al-Musharafiyyah, and the Arab Univesity area. [passage omitted]

[In a report at 1953 GMT on 14 April, Paris AFP in English adds the following information: "Several positions of both Moslem and Christian brigades of the Lebanese Army were hit in the latest shelling, military sources said." AFP then adds: "A satellite transmission station at Jurat al-Ballut, in Christian-controlled territory, was also hit, cutting many lines between Lebanon and abroad, the police said.

The latest bombardment likewise knocked out the Jumhur electricity distribution centre, which suplies both mostly Moslem West Beirut and the Christian eastern sector of the capital.

Security sources meanwhile said a large amount of military hardware, including heavy artillery, had recently reached West Beirut"]

Syrian 'Desertions,' 'Mutinies' Reported

NC1304214089 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] The Lebanese Army's retaliation against the hostile Syrian emplacements has destroyed a rocket launcher in the southern suburb and killed two Syrian soldiers. According to information received by Radio Free Lebanon, the retaliation also destroyed an emplacement in 'Alayh, killing its personnel, and another emplacement near Al-Sana'i in West Beirut, killing 10 of its personnel and injuring others.

The reports add that there were desertions and mutinies within the occupation ranks, which compelled their officers to bring in disciplinary units and deploy roadblocks near their positions to arrest the deserters. [passage omitted]

We have also been informed that three Syrian rocket launchers in the Al-Rasul al-'Azam mosque area were also destroyed. [passage omitted]

At 2005 today, a Syrian rocket launcher in the Beirut Airport area which shelled the areas of B'abda and Al-Hadath was destroyed. Fire was seen billowing from the launcher. [passage omitted]

According to information exclusive to Radio Free Lebanon, the Syrian occupation forces are removing their dead at the rate of four corpses every 2 days, and they are paying compensation for every dead soldier according to his rank, totalling between 20,000 and 50,000 Syrian pounds. [passage omitted]

Another report that just arrived says that five shells fell on Al-Sharafiyah and that the Lebanese Army just destroyed another two Syrian occupation forces rocket launchers in the Al-Rasul al-'Azam mosque area.

Fighting in Beirut; Casualty Toll Updated

NC1404052889 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Excerpts] Violent clashes broke out along the southern suburb combat lines between 0450 and 0600 today. Rockets and artillery were used in the fighting. Residential districts in 'Ayn al-Rummanah were subjected to shellfire.

This escalatory step on the part of the Syrians came after 3 hours of guarded calm on the various combat lines that followed the most violent wave of Syrian attacks on the eastern areas since 14 March. [passage omitted] According to preliminary reports, 24 people were killed and 67 others wounded in yesterday's bombardment.

AFP Updates Casualties; Phone Lines May Be Cut

NC1404103789 Paris AFP in English 0922 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Excerpt] Beirut, April 14 (AFP)—Lebanon entered the 15th year of its civil war Friday with a temporary halt to an artillery duel between Army units and Syrian gunners which Thursday killed 33 people and left scores wounded.

Thursday's fighting, pitting soldiers loyal to Christian leader General Michel 'Awn and Syrian troops backed by Muslim and leftist allies, was among the worst in 14 years of war and the bloodiest since March 14.

On that day Gen. 'Awn, who heads an all military anti-Syrian cabinet vying for power with a Damascus-backed administration, declared a "war of liberation" against some 35,000 Syrian troops deployed over two thirds of Lebanon.

At least 204 people have been killed and 905 others wounded since March 14, according to a provisional toll based on hospital reports. Most of the casualties have been civilians.

Thursday's artillery exchanges which lasted 19 hours spared no region—Ba'labakk, the site of centuries-old Roman monuments in the Syrian-controlled eastern Al-Biqa' valley was among areas hit—and police said phosphorous shells had been lobbed.

Half the country was deprived of electricity as a result of the fighting. Authoritative sources said that several shells hit the Jumhur power distribution station, starting fires and cutting its electricity generating capacity by 90 per cent.

A spokesman for the telephone and telegraph company warned that all links with the outside world could be cut within 48 hours because of the shelling. [passage omitted]

Guarded Calm Prevails; Some Shelling Noted

NC1404141989 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] Guarded calm continues to prevail amid a state of anxiety and anticipation. A number of shells fell in areas adjacent to the contact lines, particularly in the Al-Sana'i' and hotel areas. According to a security report, two shells fell on the western runway of Beirut International Airport at 1300 today. A Middle East Airline company plane had left the airport shortly before that.

It was reported some time ago that Ra's al-Nab' and Al-Mazra'ah have come under machinegun fire from snipers.

Injured Syrians Evacuated to AUB Hospital

NC1304170789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1647 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] Here is a new report from our newsdesk. The Bsaba area is currently being subjected to artillery bombardment. Machinegun fire and sporadic rocket fire are being directed at the Suq al-Qharb-Dahr al-Wahsh-'Alayh combat lines.

In another development, injured personnel from the Syrian Army were evacuated from the Beirut Airport area to the American University of Beirut [AUB] Hospital at 1800 today.

According to hospital sources, a gravely wounded senior Syrian officer was transferred to the AUB hospital a few days ago. Some reports state that the Syrian Army has taken over the lower floors of AUB Hospital for reasons you know well.

AUB Denies Report

NC1404143489 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] The American University of Beirut [AUB] has denied media reports that a certain military authority has taken over the lower stories of the AUB hospital to treat its wounded personnel. A responsible source at the AUB administration described this report as absolutely groundless.

The AUB management urges reporters to verify their information, particularly those related to work at a major humanitarian establishment that is offering its services to all citizens without discrimination, the source added.

Arab Committee Call for Cease-Fire Viewed

NC1404132889 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] Commenting on the appeal by the Arab committee to what it called the fighting parties in Lebanon to adhere to the cease-fire, a source close to General Michel 'Awn, prime minister and defense minister, made the following remarks:

1. The interest shown and efforts exerted by the Arab committee to deal with the Lebanese situation deserve the utmost thanks and sincere cooperation and response.

2. The committee expressed regret over the failure by certain parties to adhere to the cease-fire. We, in turn, would like to express our regret at the fact that the Arab committee refrained from referring to the Syrian aggression explicitly or implicitly, although the aggression continued while the Lebanese Army adhered to the cease-fire on three separate occasions in response to the Arab League appeal. In addition, the Syrian party continues to violate international charters on war issues.

3. The mere presence of the Syrian Army in Lebanon against the will of the Lebanese people and UN resolutions constitutes in itself a continued blatant aggression that deserves condemnation.

4. The appeals for a cease-fire were made only after the Lebanese Army was forced to return fire in response to Syrian acts of aggression, in order to defend itself, residential areas, and vital establishments.

5. We deeply regret the fact that no distinction was made between those who implement international laws on their shores and territorial waters to prevent smuggling, terrorism, and anarchy, and the occupiers who blockade areas, bombard civilians, and close down legal ports.

6. It is very regrettable that the Arab committee failed to expose those who oppose resort to the United Nations for the implementation of its resolutions, particularly Resolution 425. This opposition only fulfills Israel's desire to continue its occupation of southern Lebanon and provides a pretext for continued Syrian occupation. Despite all this, for the fourth time, the Lebanese Army firmly declares that it will not return fire except in cases of utmost necessity.

The source expressed hope that the Arab League will succeed in persuading the Syrian party to stop its aggression and negotiate a timetable for withdrawal from Lebanon. As for the Syrian shells that landed today in Bkirki and Beirut port, the source adds, we hope that those who are concerned about a cease-fire will hear their explosions.

PSP Proposes Central Security Committee Meeting

NC1304190989 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] Some news media have reported that the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] refuses to allow humanitarian aid to arrive in Lebanon. To correct this fabricated news, a responsible source has explained that the PSP welcomes the arrival of this aid. The PSP is in constant touch with Prime Minister Salim al-Huss to coordinate with him on the best ways to receive this humanitarian aid.

In this connection, the PSP instructed Comrade Sa'id al-Dawi, PSP political member and member of the Central Security Committee [of the various factions in Lebanon], to call for an emergency meeting of this committee. It also authorized him to hold consultations and talks on abolishing the naval and air operations room and ensuring that ships can dock at the appropriate ports.

The PSP has taken this positive stand out of its belief that it is necessary for the humanitarian aid to reach all Lebanese citizens. The PSP hopes that all the parties will follow suit and respond to its initiative.

Amal, PSP on Reviving Security Committee Tasks

NC1404143889 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] The Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] and the Amal Movement have issued a statement clarifying the contacts that their representatives at the security committee held as well as the obstinacy and rejection they came up against from the other parties on this committee.

The statement said that in response to the appeal by the Arab League committee to have the security committee reconvene at its headquarters at the racetrack circle to begin work on its tasks, PSP representative Sa'd al-Dawi and Amal representative Ahmad al-Ba'labakki contacted representatives from the Army and the Lebanese Forces in the eastern areas to facilitate the arrival of the French aid and to stabilize the cease-fire.

So far, we have not received any positive response. Therefore, added Al-Dawi and Al-Ba'labakki, we explicitly announce that the Amal Movement and the PSP are ready for the security committee's tasks to be revived after the naval and air operations room has been abolished and the troops that advanced into the security committee headquarters at the racetrack after 14 March have withdrawn.

Michel 'Awn on Syrian Forces' Involvement

PM1404082489 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 10 Apr 89 p 4

[Unattributed interview with General Michel 'Awn, "head of the Lebanese military government" in Beirut; date not given]

[Text] [Interviewer] Why has war broken out?

['Awn] The answer is simple. The Lebanese Government has made serious moves to get the foreign armies out of Lebanon. We did not start the war and the method used in it was not of our choosing.

We announced the start of the liberation battle, that is, we shifted to a new phase of resistance, but we did not start the artillery and rocket bombardment. All we have done since the middle of last month is return the fire which has rained on civilian and economic targets.

[Interviewer] But at least you contributed to the creation of a war atmosphere.

['Awn] If our demands for sovereignty and independence in a united homeland warrant such reaction, it means that confrontation is inevitable. We will not forfeit any area within Lebanon's internationally recognized borders, and we will not abondon any citizen. In these demands, the government speaks for the entire Lebanese people, even though some of them cannot now speak out openly.

[Interviewer] Some people allege that you started the war by imposing a siege on certain ports. What is your opinion?

['Awn] The fragmentation of the state and its institutions in past years encouraged the militias to take control of the public utilities and ports. The danger of this lies not only in the fact that the state is deprived of a major part of its revenue but also in the use of these ports as staging posts for the infiltration of terrorists and for drug smuggling. That has harmed Lebanon's relations with the rest of the world. There emerged an international desire to see the legitimate authorities taking control of these ports.

The government has retaken Beirut port and brought it back under the control of the legitimate authorities. That step was welcomed by the circles which later began talking about an alleged siege. The Lebanese Army has not interfered with any legitimate port. All it did was prevent ships from entering illegal ports.

To be more clear and frank, I say that it is a question not of ports but of the presence of foreign armies. Solving the problem of the ports will not settle the current conflict. What is needed is a solution to the problem of these armies' presence on Lebanese territory.

[Interviewer] What foreign armies are you referring to?

['Awn] It is the same whether you call them foreign armies or non-Lebanese armies. By that I mean the Israeli army, which occupies part of southern Lebanon, and the Syrian Army, which occupies 60 percent of Lebanese territory and which has lost any legitimate justification for its presence there. I also mean the armed groups whose entry was facilitated by Syria, such as the Iranian groups, for example.

[Interviewer] But your campaign in recent weeks has appeared to concentrate on the Syrian Army alone.

['Awn] It may have seemed so because of the military clashes between the Lebanese and Syrian Armies. The Syrian reaction to our call for the withdrawal of the Syrian forces has been a violent military reaction, as though we had dared to raise an issue which they deemed taboo.

[Interviewer] Do you not think that it is illogical to demand the withdrawal of the Syrian forces while Israel still occupies part of southern Lebanon?

['Awn] First, let me remind you that the Syrian forces entered Lebanon 2 years before the Israeli forces entered southern Lebanon. Furthermore, there has been no friction between the two armies in past years except when Israel stormed Beirut. We expected Syria to help us regain the South. That is the duty of a brother, but—and we say this with regret and bitterness—each regional state uses the presence of the other as an excuse for keeping its own army in Lebanon.

This game has driven Lebanon to a state of fragmentation that would have threatened its existence and survival if we had not initiated the resistance process and reunification of the forces which believe in Lebanon's unity and sovereignty.

[Interviewer] The Syrian forces entered Lebanon in response to a Lebanese request.

['Awn] That is true, but they did so as part of the Arab Deterrent Force whose mission was terminated by the president of the Lebanese Republic—a decision that was conveyed to the Syrian authorities and the Arab summit conference. Since then there have been no legitimate grounds for the presence of the Syrian forces in Lebanon.

Under international law, this presence has now become an occupation. That is what complicates Lebanese-Syrian relations. We want them to be relations of cooperation between two independent states, just like our relations with all the Arab states.

[Interviewer] There are those who accuse you of dragging Lebanon into a military adventure and who say that you are now trapped by the slogans with which you embarked on the confrontation.

['Awn] There can be no doubt that what has happened embarrasses several parties which would have liked these issues not be to raised so frankly and openly as to force them to take a stand. The description of the people's decision to resist as an adventure surprises me. If we accept that logic it would mean that the Algerians and the Afghans should not have mounted their resistance.

Disparity between military forces does not justify surrender. The fact that these armies are trying to use local cover does not make the conflict an internal one. The

fact that there were some pro-Germans in France did not make the confict a French-French one. Furthermore, big armies are strong in their respective countries and homelands but not so strong in the territories of others against the latter's will.

To clarify further, I say that we are not seeking a collision with Syria. There are many reasons why there should be ties of cooperation between the two states and two armies, provided these ties are based on the free wishes of both sides, with each of the two armies in its own country.

[Interviewer] On whom did you rely, regionally and internationally, when you announced the beginning of the resistance?

['Awn] I did not rely on any other power and I asked nobody's permission. I relied on the Lebanese people, who are fully aware of the facts and who know that their country will be driven to complete disintegration and oblivion if the foreign armies are not driven out. I also believe that it is in the interest of the Arabs and the entire world for Lebanon to regain its sovereignty and for legitimate authority to be restored throughout Lebanese territory.

The brothers and the rest of the world have paid a price as a result of Lebanon becoming a center of terrorism. There are no secrets here. The big powers know that the terrorist groups which carried out operations in Arab and European states have camps and positions in the Al-Biqa' region where there is no legitimate Lebanese authority.

Everyone realizes that Lebanon's disintegration would increase the dangers of terrorism, granting it a permanent base. I have sought nobody's permission but I am confident that the change in the situation could only be in Lebanon's interest.

[Interviewer] Could we know the reason for your stormy meeting with the U.S. ambassador in Beirut?

['Awn] It was not a stormy meeting, but after the formation of our government the ambassadors found themselves face to face, speaking a language that does not conceal the culprit or overlook the victim who was not even allowed to cry or protest. We realize that the major powers have their own regional calculations and interests, but we also insist on defending our interests as a state and people.

I have not sought arms or aid from the United States but I have asked it to act in accordance with its slogans urging the departure of all the non-Lebanese armies from Lebanon and support for Lebanon's unity, independence, and sovereignty. The same applies to all the major powers. Some changes are beginning to appear.

The major powers have all the necessary information. The military attaches can see for themselves that our areas are being shelled by the Syrian forces. This was announced by the French envoy after the French Embassy monitored an order to shell the embassy. I hope the other states will take France's position.

[Interviewer] Will the cease-fire hold or will it collapse?

['Awn] That is not up to us. It is up to the side which originally starting the shelling. We have reported that side's violations of the cease-fire to the Arab League. I have therefore called for a Lebanese-Syrian military committee to supervise the cease-fire and discuss a timetable for the Syrian forces' withdrawal.

[Interviewer] Prime Minister al-Huss says that the question of Syrian withdrawal cannot be discussed except within the framework of a unified government. Do you not think that it would have been better to agree on accord and reform first before raising this issue?

['Awn] I find this question rather strange. Have not all these years proved that accord and reunion between the Lebanese is forbidden? All that is forbidden because any accord would raise the issue of the presence of the foreign armies. I have urged dialogue between the Lebanese. I believe that there are axioms which are not open to question, namely, Lebanon's independence, unity, and sovereignty.

There is a need to reform the system, and I am sure that the Lebanese people are capable of reaching agreement—but in a free dialogue. No agreement can be reached under the shadow of the gun and as long as there are those who prevent politicians and leaders from meeting. In this connection, I find it strange that some justify their presence in Lebanon on the pretext that the system needs reforming.

That is another striking example of flagrant interference in our internal affairs. Reforming the system on a just and balanced basis is possible, but the imposition on the Lebanese people of a formula that would link them to foreign wishes is absolutely rejected. I understand Dr Al-Huss' position, but I tell him that history is unforgiving and that we must be brave and expose ourselves to danger to ward off the danger threatening our homeland.

[Interviewer] What would you do if this confrontation continued?

['Awn] Resistance is our only option. That does not mean shelling and counter shelling. That is not the way to drive out an occupation army. There will be resistance in the full sense of the word. We only resort to shelling in retaliation. My orders are clear: Return the Syrian fire coming from the areas of Syrian deployment.

[Interviewer] What about the profit and loss account?

['Awn] The agencies and television have carried pictures of the insane shelling of the areas under Lebanese authority, targeted on civilians and economic installations. Imagine 7,000 shells falling on these areas in one night without a single soldier being wounded.

[Interviewer] Is it right for an officer to say that he would fight to the end even if it meant Beirut's destruction?

['Awn] There is no such thing as semi-independence or semi-sovereignty. Some believe that Beirut's destruction would force the Lebanese to surrender. I meant to say that we have a cause and will resist to the end.

[Interviewer] Are you willing to conduct a dialogue with Syria?

['Awn] Any time, provided it is a dialogue between two independent states and based on noninterference in internal affairs, and provided that the dialogue proceeds from the question of drawing up a timetable for the Syrian forces' withdrawal from Lebanon.

U.S. Envoys Reportedly Rebut 'Awn Claims

PM3003115389 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 29 Mar-3 Apr 89 p 9

[Unattributed report: "Washington Criticizes 'Awn's Attitudes Toward Damascus"]

[Text] An unprecedented disagreement has emerged between head of the military government in Lebanon General Michel 'Awn and the U.S. Administration following the huge security explosion resulting from 'Awn's recent decision to besiege the harbors in East Beirut.

Although new U.S. Ambassador in Beirut John MacCarthy has refused to submit his credentials to 'Awn and continued to maintain equal contacts with both 'Awn's government and Dr Salim al-Huss' government, the media campaign launched by the eastern area against U.S. policy on Lebanon following the U.S.-Syria agreement on the eve of the presidential elections has eased under the pressure of internal political conflict.

Ambassador MacCarthy last week visited General 'Awn at the republican palace in B'abda and criticized him directly over the military escalation, which has expanded from the western area of Beirut to the Al-Biqa' area, where the command of the Syrian forces in Lebanon is stationed. He said that "'Awn's attitudes do not encourage optimism about the future."

At the same time U.S. Ambassador in Damascus Edward Djerejian visited Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and informed him of Washington's disagreement with 'Awn's statements about Syria, in which he accused it of occupying parts of Lebanon, and with the shelling of Syrian positions in Shtawrah, in the Al-Biqa' area.

Iraq's Hamdun Reportedly Admits Supplying Arms

NC1204070389 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] Iraq has unveiled its treasonous face. In a statement he made, Iraqi Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Nizar Hamdun has admitted that Iraq supplies weapons to the militias who cooperate with Israel. He affirmed that he will do all he can to assist in fighting Syria.

Asked about the supply of Iraqi arms to the Christians, Hamdun said: Iraq has provided everything possible, considering the difficulties in sending supplies and in the geographical situation. He added Iraq will provide everything it can to the anti-Syrian forces in Lebanon, beginning with political support.

Reportage on Visit by Algerian Foreign Minister

Arrives 12 Apr

JN1204210289 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] Damascus—Algerian Foreign Minister Boualem Bessaieh arrived in Damascus this evening on a visit to Syria lasting several days during which he will convey a message to President Hafiz al-Asad from his brother His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid.

He was welcomed at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. He was also welcomed by the chiefs of the Arab Homeland and Protocol Departments at the Foreign Ministry as well as the Algerian ambassador and embassy officials in Damascus.

Bessaieh made a statement a SANA correspondent in which he expressed happiness at visiting Syria. He said he is carrying a message to President Hafiz al-Asad from President Chadli Bendjedid on bilateral relations, the current Arab situation, and some issues of joint interest.

He said this visit falls within the series of meetings between Algerian and Syrian officials. He said these meetings have become a very praiseworthy tradition within the framework of relations between the two sisterly countries.

Received by Al-Shar'

JN1304125289 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] Damascus—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this afternoon received Algerian Foreign Minister Boualem Bessaieh. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Assistant Yusuf Shakkur, Arab Homeland Department Director Mustafa 'Umran, and Algerian Ambassador in Damascus Moubarek Djedri.

They discussed bilateral relations between the two fraternal countries and reviewed current developments in the region and issues of common concern.

Delivers Message to Al-Asad

JN1304154089 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1455 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] Damascus, 13 Apr (SANA)—President Hafiz al-Asad this afternoon received Algerian Foreign Minister Boualem Bessaieh. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' attended the meeting.

The Algerian minister conveyed to President al-Asad a message from Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid.

Departs 14 Apr

JN1404115389 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] Algerian Foreign Minister Boualem Bessaieh left Damascus today following a visit to the country during which he met with President Hafiz al-Asad.

He was seen off by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', the directors of the Arab Homeland and Protocol Departments at the Foreign Ministry, and the Algerian ambassador in Damascus.

Bessaieh made a predeparture statement to a SANA correspondent in which he praised the results of his visit to the country and meetings with Syrian officials.

Al-Asad Receives Khalil al-Wazir's Widow 13 Apr

JN1304181689 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad this afternoon received Intisar al-Wazir, widow of martyred Palestinian leader Khalil al-Wazir—Abu Jihad.

Khaddam Receives Lebanese Parliament Speaker

JN1304123289 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received at 1000 today Mr Husayn al-Husayni, speaker of the Lebanese Parliament. They talked about the Lebanese situation and the current developments and efforts to rectify this situation.

European Troika Arrives in Damascus, Begins Talks

JN1204141289 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Excerpt] The European troika delegation arrived in Damascus from Moscow yesterday evening. The Syrian Foreign Ministry's protocol director and the head of the Western Europe desk welcomed the delegation on its arrival at the airport.

The delegation comprises (Fernando Perpignan), Spanish Foreign Ministry secretary general; (Bertrand Dufourque), director of the French Foreign Ministry's Political Affairs Department, and his assistant; and (Anastasios Petropoulos), director of the Greek Foreign Ministry's Political Affairs Department. They are accompanied by a European commissioner.

The first session of talks between the European delegation and Yusuf Shakkur, assistant foreign minister, was held this morning. Ranking Syrian Foreign Ministry officials attended.

It has been learned from Western diplomatic sources that the talks basically focus on what is taking place in Lebanon. The European side is also being familiarized with several facts and background information that some Western media organs have distorted and which were ignored by other media organs.

These facts deal with the incidents in Lebanon, the three-member [as heard] Arab committee, particularly the call made by the head of the committee, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, from Damascus a week ago to abide by the cease-fire on the basis of lifting the sieges, reopening the crossing points, and reviving the security committee.

The second session of talks between the European delegation and the Syrian side will be held this evening. No official statement is expected before the end of the talks. [passage omitted]

Troika Leaves Damascus

JN1304131289 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The European troika delegation, which arrived in Damascus from Moscow the night before yesterday, concluded its visit and left for home a short while ago.

According to diplomatic sources here, the delegation members will present a report to their heads on the results of their talks. These sources expressed satisfaction with the results of these talks.

The delegation held two rounds of talks with Assistant Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur and other senior Syrian Foreign Ministry officials. [passage omitted]

Mitterrand Remarks Viewed as 'First Step'

JN1304153089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Undoubtedly, the remarks made by French President Francois Mitterrand and Foreign Minister Roland Dumas yesterday restore some commitment and balance to French policy on Lebanon after this policy was about to lose its credibility completely as a result of the recent French statements and moves, of which the least that can be said is that they do not reflect the responsible attitude expected from a big power like France.

In his remarks, President Mitterrand abandoned the call to internationalize the Lebanese crisis, supported Arab efforts to tackle the crisis, and voiced his country's support for political reforms and his country's support for all Lebanese.

Dumas renounced the stands of French envoy Jean-Francois Deniau. All this constitutes a first step toward alleviating the recent negative impressions which shrouded the French stand on Lebanon.

The new clarifications indicate that the French Government's recent reckless stands that antagonized the majority of Lebanese people and Syria did not express the actual viewpoint of the French Government.

If we take this indication for granted, the French Government, in view of its recent stands, must have fallen in a trap set for it by the internal French opposition, which took the opportunity of General 'Awn's escalation in Lebanon to embarrass the government and score points at its expense.

The French opposition wanted to sneak into the power positions it had lost by involving the French Government in a brainless game which may cost France its prestige, not only in this region, but in the world, and cost Lebanon further destruction, pain, and blood.

It is clear that the French Government was indeed involved, although temporarily, in the game of the opposition. Perhaps this explains that overnight change in the stand of this government following the visit paid by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' to Paris last month and his talks with French officials in which a great deal of understanding and objectivity prevailed.

Certainly, nothing exempts the French Government from the responsibility of being dragged behind the game of the opposition. However, as the Arab saying goes, admitting one's mistake is a virtue. That government quickly realized the gravity of that game.

It also realized that turning a blind eye to the interests of Lebanon with the majority of its factions, complying with the ambitions of a reckless general in East Beirut who does not have the right to represent those he claims to represent, and yielding to the internal French opposition places not only the destiny of Lebanon at stake but also the destiny of French interests in the region.

This fully biased French stand was confronted with an overwhelming popular Lebanese rejection. Various Lebanese factions considered this stand unjustified hostility to the Lebanese people's aspirations to rebuild their homeland on bases of justice and equality.

The call for internationalization faced regional and international rejection. The French call in this direction found no response by either European or U.S. allies, or even by the UN secretary general.

Thus, the French Government had to restore balance and impartiality to its policy. It renounced Jean-Francois Deniau's statements, went back on the call for internationalization, and reiterated support for the Arab League's efforts to tackle the Lebanese crisis.

However, if the French Government is serious about its support for the six-member Arab committee, it should exploit its influence on Gen 'Awn and his clique to make them respond to the efforts of the Arab committee.

The first step in this direction must be by 'Awn's acceptance of the appeal of the head of the committee, Shaykh Sabah al-Salim al-Sabah, for a cease-fire, lifting the siege imposed on ports, and reviving the security committee.

Commentary Reiterates Al-Asad Stand on Conference
JN1204144589 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The regional situation as well as its everchanging developments are attracting wide-ranging, worldwide attention. Moreover, the demands for an international conference designed to establish a just and durable peace are increasing.

However, this international trend is running into the obstacle of Israel's policy of aggression and expansionism and its efforts to make any international conference a cover and an umbrella both for its expansionist policy and for imposing capitulation on the Arab nation.

The achievement of a just and durable peace will be possible if two basic objectives are realized. The first is to secure an Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories and the second is to secure the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian Arab people, foremost of which is their right to establish their independent state on their land.

Syria has accepted the international conference as a means for the two superpowers or the five permanent members of the UN Security Council to participate and as a working formula to achieve a just peace.

However, Israel has been rejecting efforts to bring about peace. Moreover, it has been determined to pursue an aggressive, expansionist policy to realize its Torah dreams of the establishment of Greater Israel from the Euphrates to the Nile. It does not conceal the objectives of this policy.

Nay, Israel is seeking to develop the aggression and entrench the occupation. It has been perpetrating the ugliest forms of racist and brutal crimes against the Arabs of the occupied territories with the aim of breaking their steadfastness, weakening their resistance, and making them submit to its expansionist schemes.

This fact makes the line of steadfastness and resistance the ideal way to confront the Israeli aggressiveness and expansionist drive, which dictates that the international community must take the necessary measures to end Israel's violations, terminate its occupation and usurpation, and curb its aggressive, expansionist policy. Such measures will enable the international community to launch its efforts to establish a just and durable peace.

The two conditions for the realization of this peace are the following: Israel's withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, and the restoration of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian Arab people on their soil and in their homeland. Any effort to overlook this fact will deflect any international conference from its basic objectives, making the conference fail to achieve a just peace.

His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad expressed Syria's firm and principled stand most sincerely when he affirmed that Syria is seeking to see a just, durable peace prevail in this region—a peace that will regain rights and reassure peoples that their future will be devoid of expansion and aggression.

The president added: While subscribing to the notion of convening an international conference as a working formula to achieve just peace, Syria clearly rejects before any other party the idea that such a conference will be entitled to impose solutions, as we are not ready to concede to anybody our full right to regain our rights.

However, we do not want a conference with no function, or participants in a conference that have nothing to do. This was our opinion in the past. We voiced this opinion, and it has remained so.

We are sure that, no matter how long it takes, the forces of expansionism and invasion have no future and that Syria and its Arab nation are placing themselves on the right track—the track leading to its victory in its just struggle, armed with its masses and just cause and also with the support being provided and the understanding being shown for this cause by its friends.

SANA: Authorities Seize Drugs in Tartus Port
JN1104154789 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1445 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] Damascus, 11 Apr (SANA)—It was announced here today that a large quantity of drugs, weighing 1,100 kg, has been seized and confiscated in the Syrian coastal city of Tartus.

A source in the Criminal Department of the Syrian Interior Ministry said that the drugs were prepared in 1,440 small containers which were hidden in secret places in a refrigerated container on a truck.

The drugs were to be smuggled through Syria to a European country via the port of Tartus. The truck containing the drugs was to have been sent on board a ship.

The source pointed out that the truck has been monitored since it entered Syria on 7 April 1989. As a result, it was seized in Tartus and its occupants arrested.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Addresses Power Workers 13 Apr

LD1304223889 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1603 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Speech by President Najibullah on 13 April in Kabul in a meeting with employees of the power production department of Sarowbi and (Neghlo) power stations—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. First of all, I want to convey my best wishes to you, the heroic workers in the field of energy and power, the vanguard workers and the messengers of light and brightness, for your indefatigable work and efforts to deliver light to the people's homes and provide power to the economic machinery of the country.

Our meeting takes place during difficult days in Afghanistan's history: A border is being drawn between the pro-national reconciliation forces who support Afghanistan's unity and cohesion, and the forces in favor of war and backwardness who are tools of foreigners. I think they have given us enough reasons now for our just struggle. They announced the merger of Afghanistan under the cover of a confederation. Then with complete shamelessness, they trampled on the rights of a great nation by announcing their official recognition of the Durand line.

Once again they proved their servility to the servants of their original masters, the Punjabis and the English. More disgraceful than this—as you know from the media—is that Mojadeddi, the so-called head of state who was appointed leader of the transitional or interim government in Rawalpindi, declared that if there is a war between Afghanistan and Pakistan, he will stand by Pakistan.

The head of Afghanistan's transitional government declared that he will stand by Pakistan in a war against Afghanistan. When a person stands up and fights against Afghans and his Afghanistan, against his dear country, against his country's history, against his country's national heritage upon the instruction and order of Pakistan's military intelligence and a few colonels and generals, then I think these people are not the children of this country.

We, on the contrary, have the right to proudly say that we are now standing on our own feet. We bravely defend the national heritage and honors which were bequeathed to us by our fathers and forefathers, in a free and independent Afghanistan. The fervent, heroic, and self-sacrificing defense in the trenches in Jalalabad, Khowst, and other cities like Qandahar, Zabol, and in dozens of other provinces, are manifestations of this fact.

The firmness and resoluteness of your combat and struggle against the enemies' conspiracies and plots in Sarowbi are a manifestation of this issue. We can mention dozens of other examples: Afghanistan is not dead, and will never die. [applause] Your spirit reminds me of a poem which says:

You should live with courage in the world,

Otherwise courageous men will die without courage.

No one lives forever, but one can die with the honor of being a child of the homeland, for the defense of the homeland's soil, using his chest as a shield against the shame of defeat, and giving his life to the honor, self-sacrifice, and heroism of his fathers and forefathers. The blood of Afghans runs again in their veins.

I think future generations will lay wreaths on our graves—if we have no graves, then by the tomb of the unknown soldier or unknown worker. They will be proud of us. I think such an honorable death is better than the flattery of life. No, we see that it is not like that. Our comrades, our workers, our toilers, our Armed Forces have decided not only to die courageously, but to live and become victorious. I see belief and assurance in your faces, not only in your faces, but in your work as you described it to me, in your heroism and bravery which you have shown that we will never be defeated. [applause]

In one of my speeches addressed to the commanders a few days ago, I said this war is not a war of Afghans, but a war between Afghanistan and Pakistan. Fortunately, confessions by information leaders proved my asserTation: a number became tools of the extremists' leaders and were used against their Afghan brothers. Fortunately, today they have gradually realized that the one who does not believe in their history, the one who stands by Pakistan in the war between Afghanistan and Pakistan, has become a victim and tool in the hands of foreigners.

I am hoping that soon a rational mind, which at this very moment is engaged in thinking and perceiving... [Najibullah changes thought]... We have received many letters from commanders inside the country who say: Najibullah, you are telling the truth, we were victims in the hands of aliens and that as mercenaries we took positions against our land, our graves, our schools, our brothers. Such a shake up must take place in the ranks of the armed opposition. It should be asked why war, for what reason and for whom, for Pakistan or to obliterate Afghanistan and trample history?

Meanwhile, a story comes to my mind about a wrestler who threw his opponent to the ground and defeated him. The downed man called to the crowd: Remove this man from my chest before I make his children orphans. Our

opponents are in such a situation. They have been thrown to the ground, but they shout: Remove the winner from my chest before I make his children orphans.

We will capture Jalalabad today, tomorrow we will occupy another province, and next week we will seize Kabul. They loudly and shamelessly say: In the battle, we will be on Pakistan's side. This has been a test, and shame will come to the impure ones.

We believe in the courage and bravery of the people of Afghanistan. We were asked whether or not we could maintain power and sovereignty if Soviet troops withdrew. Courageously, I said yes we can hold power. Why? Because of the support of the people of Afghanistan; we are at their service. They know that the opposite side is not at their service, but are the enemies of the Afghan people. Go on your way. Thanks for your assistance. You let us see how they struggle and how can we can advance struggle independently. [sentence as heard]

Two months have passed since Soviet troops withdrew. Today, both the people of Afghanistan and of Pakistan follow social and political events, in addition to the rest of the world. Even the U.S. media has changed its position and now say: Our predictions that the Afghan regime would collapse the day after the withdrawal of the limited Soviet units were wrong.

On the contrary, the other day the BBC said that the government has an Islamic and patriotic position and the opposition has an anti-Islamic position and is under the influence of Pakistan. They now admit that if the regime survives for another 2 months, it will be transformed into a national heroic regime. They say: You have gained this honor not within a long period, but in 2 months. [applause]

Did we have the right to trust you? To have faith in you?

In relying on the will of God and on your courage, we made the decision to have the Soviet Union leave. And now we can proudly say to the world that Afghanistan is free, independent, non-aligned, and heroically and independently defending the interests of the Afghan people and Afghan national honor. [applause]

When the limited Soviet units were here we had losses both in the trenches and in the battlefronts. Our workers' vehicles were attacked on the road from time to time. Was it not like this? However, the world ignored our sacrifices and claimed that the limited Soviet units remained.

However, our sacrifices today have produced one result that the world can judge, that friends and foes can judge: The people of Afghanistan are truly patriotic people; they love their land because their parents' graves are here, and tomorrow we will be buried in this soil, our children will be buried in this soil; for this reason this soil is honored more than a mother.

There is an Islamic principle that says: Faithful is the one who loves his homeland. Are they the faithful who in the probable war between Afghanistan and Pakistan will side with Pakistan against their own country? Will they be called the faithful?

Now your struggle is clearly heroic. And have I gained this honor because of you, or have I made a mistake? You, the industrious workers, have played an important role in discharging your burdensome and important duties and keeping the wheel of life going. Your work during the present struggle for the homeland is appreciated by all the Afghan people.

Man's most important invention is the invention of electricity. I would like to speak briefly about the importance of your work and duties, as well as the role of your activities, in particular, current circumstances of the country.

During the post-revolution years the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan paid special attention to symmetrical growth in all economic fields, including the growth and expansion of electric energy in the country. It did this through broadening and renovating generating stations, transmission lines, building new projects, and by designing a unified energy system.

However, due to the continuation of the undeclared war, the electricity generating capacity has not increased as desired. The power generating stations of Naghlu, Sarowbi, and Mahi Par, where you, the heroic workers of the country, engaged in serving the compatriots, form the major and fundamental portion of the country's electrical power generating installations and play a vital role in the major socio-economic installations in the country's capital, Kabul.

The continuation of the process of generating and distributing electric power from the central region, which is due to your indefatigable patriotic work and struggle, prepares the ground for the utilization of electric power by about 2 million of your compatriots in Kabul. Have complete confidence that every sensitive person of the homeland knows very well that the electricity in their homes is the result of your work, struggle, and endeavors. This includes, for example, Muhammad Yunus, Qadir-e Sangar, 'Abdul Ghani, Hamidullah, Shah Morad, and hundreds of other pioneer workers like you.

History and the sons of the country will never forget Muhammad Yunus, a worker who lost his leg while supplying electric power to the homes of his compatriots; or Qadir-e Sangar, who despite serious injuries, did not forget his responsibility to the homeland. He earnestly and relentlessly continued his duty.

However, the people of Afghanistan will also not forget that the extremist elements attached to the Pakistani militarists—who, by destroying over 50 metal high voltage pylons (?every) year and martyring over 26 heroic and patriotic workers—have been continuously trying to turn off the electricity in peoples' homes and to shut off the heat and warmth in their homes. They have been trying to destroy your heroic work.

I can seriously question the extremists' claim that they will seize political power, seize Kabul, and allegedly secure the government based on justice. When they come to fight, they bring with them ropes tied up around their waists and they wear bags on their backs. They bring these because if they seize any city then these things will be useful in plundering a shop, stealing property from homes, and violating the pride and honor of the people.

They destroy a bridge in the country, or destroy a factory, or a hospital or turn Jalalabad—a city where spring is always present—to rubble. I think an Afghan could not do such a thing. In particular, if they want to seize the government from us, then they must show themselves to be better than we are. There is a saying that a good year can be predicted by its spring.

However, a year which might not be good can also be predicted by its spring. They have not yet taken any city, but they come to plunder, steal, and act savagely. If tomorrow they seize the government, state, and all of Afghanistan, God knows what they will do by destroying a city where innocent people- women and children—live.

They have suffered the most losses at Jalalabad. Our units are in trenches and they have constructed fighting places in these trenches. Even the extremists have admitted this and Mojadeddi was asked why Jalalabad has not been taken. He said: By God, we do not know what they have buried in the ground. He does not know that not a thing has been buried there. This is the heroic thinking of an Afghan son. [applause]

He raises his head and gives the enemy a historic lesson. As you have heard, there is no place for injured persons in Pakistani hospitals, let alone a place for the dead. We regret that Afghans were also killed on the other side and they are being pushed forward by the chieftains of the organizations together in a conspiracy with the military intelligence and militarists of Pakistan. I have said time and again that the extremist Afghans were used as cannon fodder.

Hence, to once again display our goodwill regarding the implementation of the policy of national reconciliation, we said that thus far the holy month of Ramadan is the month of blessing, and in this month Sahifas [pamphlets] were revealed to Prophet Ebrahim Khalilollah. In this month the Old Testament and the Bible were revealed to Moses and Jesus; the holy Koran was also revealed in this month. Why do they claim Islam that much? Because of these holy books. [sentence as heard]

Allow a child, an old man, an elderly man, to break his fast in the evening with a piece of bread—the bread that you, the extremists, want to deny him by blocking the roads. I have announced a cease-fire again at the behest of the 'ulema and the clergymen, and of the Jergah and demands of the people. The day after the announcement of a cease-fire Mojadeddi announced: On the contrary, we will intensify the war during Ramadan because Muhammad the prophet, peace be upon him, carried out Ghazawat [the war against the infidels] in this month.

Muhammad forged Ghazawat against infidels. Ghaza is not required against a Muslim woman or child. Tell me: Is Ghaza needed against a Muslim or is it needed for the sake of infidels, Pakistanis, and for implementing the instruction of the military intelligence in Pakistan? As he is a Wahhabi, it is characteristic that he will want to show that the character and tradition of Muhammad, peace be upon him, as impure. He was carrying Ghaza against infidels, not against Muslims. This is the true nature of the extremists.

They destroy cities and kill children, women, and elders. The victims are like our fathers and our sons, the sons of this homeland, and like our sisters, who should be respected. We assist them in accordance with the Islamic dictate: [delivers Arabic verse]. We should assist them. The best slave of God is the one who assists God's creatures and God's people.

The extremists say that in the month of Ramadan a Muslim's fasting will not be allowed, they intensify the war, destroy the country, and wipe out the cities.

A number of friends must go and see what have they done to the city. But they lie about what they find: We did not seize the cities and Jalalabad because we do not attack cities; we have mercy on the cities. First of all, mercy on people comes from God. They should not [delivers Arabic verse] put himself in the position of God. Then why do they lie? If every day an average of 7,000 rockets are being fired on a city, is this mercy?

Well, again I say to you that God, if He is merciful, compassionate, and generous, is also a conquerer. God has sent His curse on them at the very moment and you can see [words indistinct] they will be embarrassed and shamefully defeated [words indistinct]. Pakistan is (?behind them); they do not have factories to supply them with artillery, heavy weapons, tanks, armor, and other things.

They do not have factories to make them. There are helicopters that bring them supplies. There are Arabs who are brought here to fight alongside them. If they were alone, what would have happened? Are you proud of this heroic resistance by your children? This defeat was not a shameful defeat for them, but for Pakistan.

We have been at war for 10 years. Pakistan, whose 90,000 men surrendered to India after the 1971 war, had not yet received the blow from Afghanistan's children. we have been fighting for ten years, but they are afraid that Afghanistan will stand up, revive itself, become strong, and that a national unity will be created.

They have found a number of servants and use them shamelessly. There is no need to describe the obvious. Up to yesterday, whatever we said the people could have called propaganda; but today the opposition says it themselves in their confessions. There is pressure here; they too, as real servants, do anything they are told. Usually a sound and wise element, does Hazrat Saheb-e Mojadeddi do everything he is told?

You might not know this, but Gulbuddin Hikmatyar and Mojaddedi sat together at the Pakistani military intelligence service. Hikmatyar was told to move back a little while Mojadeddi was introduced as president. The same words from Pakistan were said by him. He sometimes says that he is close to Zahir Shah. He sometimes says that Pakistan interferes in our affairs. Do you recall that at one time he resigned?

Pakistan says: Let us make him president and then we will stamp him with the words of Ghulam Ishaq Khan, Pakistani military intelligence, the official recognition of the Durand line, and another word about standing by Pakistan in the war against Afghanistan. If we defame him well enough, we will create a distance between him and Zahir Shah.

I do not think Zahir Shah will not support one who says: I officially recognize the Durand line and will stand by Pakistan. Therefore, Mojadeddi will be useless and Pakistan will say: Dear Gulbuddin, come take his place. So he does not know what is happening? If he knew then he might not have become a fully sold-out servant; if he does know, then he should resign as soon as possible.

They are not even loyal to the servants they use. Yet the opposition has sold itself as such. It is good that the true Afghans are not in this position. [passage indistinct]

Our enemy has inflicted enormous financial damage and loss of life affecting you and your work in serving the noble compatriots and mankind. Your heroic collective, by understanding its historic mission and pledges to the compatriots and despite the destructive activities by the opposition forces, was able to produce during the current year more than 546 million kw hours of hydro-electricity and 90 million kw/hr of thermal power for the use of the deserving compatriots and social and economic establishment of the country.

Despite the destruction by the extremists elements, the production of hydro-electricity in October-November and February-March were higher than the planned target. This was fulfilled when the lack of fuel was seriously felt in Kabul city. We mention this work with endless appreciation.

Brave and heroic workers, in the special present condition—against the desire of the decisive majority of Afghanistan's people and the peace-loving people of the world—in which the imposed war by extremists has obtained greater and more extensive dimensions with the direct participation and military support of Pakistan and financial assistance, it is up to you not to allow the process of production and power distribution to be disrupted. Through joint security efforts any treacherous and destructive extremist actions should be prevented.

Dear workers, you have seen today that after signing the Geneva accords, the extremists fired hundreds of missiles at your establishments, causing loss of life and financial damage. A number of workers lost their lives as a result of these criminal actions. Which one of these actions accords with Islamic tenets? They term as "jihad" murder and destruction, and plundering people's properties.

A real jihad is one in which you protect the peoples' interests, delivering the most important goods, delivering to them a piece of bread—and to work for the interests and welfare of your country. It can clearly be seen that there are people behind the extremists who are intent on destroying our country. According to statistics, in a progressive world 2,000 kw/hr of electricity is being distributed to each person each year. While in our country only 66 kw/hr reach each person annually.

At the moment electricity is being distributed to only 6 percent of our country. By firing missiles and heavy weapons the extremists want to take away this very limited source of light from our compatriots. The poor people of our country live in poverty. But they [extremists] destroy public utilities and have fixed their eyes on eliminating the few power and energy systems.

Therefore, your first and foremost duty is the armed defense of your factories. I know that around 500 persons are active in self-defense from among the workers and others. This is the best example for your country's factories and establishments. The energy production establishments are the wealth and asset of all Afghanistan's people and belong to each one of you, the workers of this field. These are your assets.

Your and your families' bread comes from these energy production facilities, the result of your hard work. Do not allow Afghanistan's national assets to be eliminated by a number of mercenary extremists and our country's assets to be destroyed.

The state is contemplating taking necessary and serious measures in order to create a safe climate for work and to ensure the security of the residential areas of your families in the localities and relevant regions.

Therefore, in order to make sound and effective use of productive systems and to provide the energy needed for Kabul city, the leadership of the Ministry of Water and

Power requests that you, the heroic workers, not to allow even 1 cubic meter of water to be wasted without being used in to produce energy during conditions when the water level is naturally low in the dams and is still down despite the recent rain; or 1 kw/hr of power to be wasted without being used effectively.

The economy and savings in production of power energy should not escape your attention. You should specify the requirement and repair of production systems and take specific measures to improve the condition of the systems and create emergency storage of the spare parts.

In order to increase the capacity of power and energy production, the program of construction work of the combined-cycles [as heard] project should be followed and completed. The oil product needed by thermal electricity should be specified, prepared, and stored from the beginning of the year. The leadership of the Ministry of Water and Power, in order to provide facilities to the workers' families in Sarowbi town, should study the possibility of creating a service network, such as a health center, a bank, and selling consumer goods and fuel, and should present their specific proposals to the Council of Ministers.

The process of the militarization [as heard] of some of the power and energy production network should be accelerated and their specific proposals should be presented. In order to enhance the effectiveness and productivity of your work, you should avoid wasting power and try to reduce the cost of 1 kw of power by using the principle of saving while producing.

Dear workers, at present there is a great and historical test before you. The country is going through sensitive and destiny-making moments. The reactionary forces brought down Amanollah Khan, the patriotic king of the West, and as a result kept our country dozens of years behind the march of civilization. Today also they resort to the slogan of bringing down national sovereignty—your sovereignty—and stealing your country's territorial integrity and independence.

However, today is another time. The people of Afghanistan will not be deceived. During these sensitive and difficult historic days, you—who are the producers of light and pleasantness and who work to eliminate darkness, and are a source for the strength of work—do not allow your country's honor, territorial integrity, and peaceful climate and progress to be violated or cheated. Fortunately, such a feeling exists among all our people. As God, may He be glorified, and the people are with us, then surely victory will be with us. [applause]

To conclude, I hope you convey my sincere and warm regards to workers and employees of the power projects of Neghlo, Mahepar, and Sarowbi and to all the workers in the field of power and energy production.

I wish you success, victory, and health for you and your families, and request from Almighty God, the fulfillment of your patriotic and humanitarian work, strength, power, and further victory. I congratulate in advance the arrival of 'Id al-Fitr which is coming soon. [applause]

Najibullah Supports Dialogue To Establish Peace

AU1304161889 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 11 Apr 89 pp 1, 5

[Interview with Najibullah, general secretary of the People's Democratic Party and president, by Volodya Stratiev, RABOTNICHESKO DELO special correspondent in Kabul: "Dialogue Is the Best Formula of Peace"; date not given]

[Text] [Stratiev] Comrade Najibullah, how do the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and the Republic of Afghanistan Government evaluate the stand of the People's Republic of Bulgaria on the question of Afghanistan, confirmed by Comrade Todor Zhivkov's message which was recently given to you?

[Najibullah] The Republic of Afghanistan Government highly appreciates Bulgaria's friendly stand on the Afghan question. We gratefully welcome the support of the Bulgarian people and their government for our people's just struggle.

Comrade Zhivkov's message once more reassures us of your consistent support for our policy. We highly appreciate the Bulgarian assistance in the economic sphere for the restoration of the Afghan economy which was heavily damaged as a result of a fratricidal war.

[Stratiev] Recently, especially since the withdrawal of Soviet military units, Afghanistan is once more the focus of worldwide public attention, but for a different reason. What exactly has changed in your country's military-political situation today?

[Najibullah] Over the last weeks, since the withdrawal of the Soviet military units in particular, the country's situation has evolved in favor of national sovereignty, and a trend toward the expanding social base of the people's government is in progress.

The intervention against Jalalabad City and the opposition's hopes that the Kabul government would collapse only a few weeks after the Soviet troops' withdrawal proved unrealistic.

Practical experience shows that the Republic of Afghanistan Armed Forces are sustained by high combat morale. They are ready to oppose heroic resistance and to defeat any foreign interference and aggression. The events around Jalalabad confirmed this. Even certain biased countries and governments were obliged to revise their stand related to the military potential of the Republic of Afghanistan's Government.

As a result of our armed forces' effective actions, the military-political situation in the country as a whole is developing to the benefit of Afghanistan's national independence.

[Stratiev] The fratricidal war caused numerous losses and suffering to the Afghan people and your country had to face great economic problems as a result. What is Afghanistan's present economic situation and the extent of damages caused by the war to your national economy? Can you describe the measures adopted by the Republic of Afghanistan Government to eliminate the results of war and restore your national economy?

[Najibullah] Nearly 1 decade of war destroyed numerous human lives and caused tremendous economic damage. This war killed thousands of noble and loyal sons of our people who represented an invaluable national asset for our country. The major part of our production enterprises, pastures, electric power and water supply systems were totally destroyed.

Those which remained are either heavily damaged, or are not working at full capacity. For an economically underdeveloped country, such as Afghanistan, the losses suffered in this sphere can only be described as disastrous.

The Republic of Afghanistan Government is trying with all its power to put an end to this cruel and intolerable war, which is our greatest national misfortune. We have adopted extensive measures, within our potentials. We rely on active international assistance in this respect.

The UN sponsored program for Afghanistan's economic revival is part of the international effort in this sphere. In this connection we hope that through the world organization and on the basis of bilateral agreements signed by the Republic of Afghanistan with other countries we may obtain comprehensive assistance in the great endeavor of restoring our country.

[Stratiev] The chances for the political settlement of the Afghan question have diminished as a result of the opposition's actions and as a result of the fact that Pakistan and the United States refused to fulfill the Geneva Agreements. Can you describe the possibilities of achieving peace under these circumstances?

[Najibullah] The Republic of Afghanistan Government thinks that dialogue and understanding, instead of military actions, should be the most appropriate methods for settling all regional and global problems. We hope that Pakistan, which signed the Geneva agreements, out of its free will, and the United States, as an international guarantor, have assumed a commitment to the international public and should observe these agreements which are the prerequisites of peace in our geographical area. This is to the advantage of Pakistan's interests and is also likely to contribute to the consolidation of security in our part of the world.

[Stratiev] The Afghanistan Government is further pursuing its principle-minded policy of national reconciliation. Can you describe the results of this policy in the context of the intensive negotiations conducted with the opposition leaders within the country, as well as the peace proposals you recently submitted to them?

[Najibullah] It is our opinion that national reconciliation is the only alternative in view of the present domestic political and military situation in Afghanistan. The Republic of Afghanistan Government is in favor of achieving comprehensive peace and national reconciliation to everyone's benefit. Negotiations with the majority of the opposition commanders are still in progress.

Our latest appeal to them was welcomed with great approval by the overwhelming majority of the Afghanistan public. We hope that the process of national reconciliation will produce positive results in the near future and will put an end to the war in Afghanistan.

[Stratiev] The Republic of Afghanistan insists that your country's problem should be resolved by political means and with the active participation of the United Nations. How do you evaluate the opportunities and the readiness of the world organization to give real assistance in setting the Afghanistan problem? Does the Afghan side intend to adopt new initiatives on the international scene?

[Najibullah] We are ready to use all possible methods and means in order to halt the military actions and to achieve peace. We think that the world public and the United Nations have all the opportunities effectively to assist our people in this decisive cause. Our latest peace proposals have already been submitted to the United Nations.

We think that the United Nations, and the Security Council in particular, on the basis of the Geneva agreements and parting from the decisions of the 43d UN General Assembly Session, have all competences and opportunities to adopt a just decision on the Afghan issue.

We hope and expect that the United Nations and all peace-loving countries in the world which are able to play a decisive role in stopping the war in our country, at this crucial moment, will engage in such efforts with all their good will and accomplish their mission of achieving true and lasting peace.

[Stratiev] Before we end this interview, would you mind very much if I asked you to describe the 12-hour, and perhaps even 24-hour working day of Afghanistan's president, party general secretary, and commander in chief of the armed forces under the circumstances of this particularly difficult and crucial period in your country's life?

[Najibullah] My working day is determined by the country's military and political situation which requires prompt reaction, and by the fact that we expected to adopt decisions on military, political, economic, and social issues

which are the focus of international interest. Considering all these circumstances, you can imagine the great tension and the heavy responsibilities involved in a president's working day. I can only say that I am at my post from the early hours of the morning until late at night.

Further on Visit of Soviet Republics Delegation

Technical Protocol Signed

LD1404063589 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0442 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] Kabul, April 13, BAKHTAR—A protocol of scientific, technical, economic and cultural cooperation was signed here between the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Central Asian Republics of Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan.

On behalf of the Republic of Afghanistan the protocol was signed by Sarwaw Mangal, deputy prime minister, 'Abdul Samad Qayyumi, president of the local organs of the Council of Ministers and Lemar Ahmad Lemar, chairman of the Administration of Direct Cooperations.

On behalf of the Soviet Union, Osmanov, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of Tajajikistan, Anawov, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of Turkmenistan and Abdul Rahmanov, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of Uzbekistan signed the protocol and exchanged the documents.

On the signing ceremony of these protocol which have been concluded for the years 1989-1990, some members of the Council of Ministers, and some members of the Soviet Embassy in Kabul were also present.

Under these protocols, relations of direct cooperations between the said republics and the northern provinces of the Republic of Afghanistan will be further expanded.

Delegation Departs 14 Apr

LD1404063689 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0436 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] Kabul, April 13, BAKHTAR—A high-ranking Soviet delegation headed by deputy prime ministers of Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan who were here on an official and friendly visit left Kabul for their country.

The delegation was seen off at Kabul International Airport by Sarwaw Mangal, deputy prime minister, Lemar Ahmad Lemar, head of the direct cooperation department. Yuliy Vorontsov the Soviet ambassador in the Republic of Afghanistan also bade farewell to the delegation.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman on UN Border Posts

LD1304171689 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] An Afghan Foreign Ministry spokesman has told BAKHTAR that Pakistan's agreement concerning the permanent stationing of three posts in three border regions by the UN Good Offices Mission can in no way achieve the aim for which these posts are being formed.

The spokesman added that under the pressure of international public opinion and in order to conceal its broad interference in Afghan affairs, Pakistan has agreed to the stationing of the UN Good Offices Mission in only three places from among dozens of paths and crossing points through which waves of weapons, ammunition, and armed individuals are coming into Afghanistan.

The spokesman added: It is necessary for permanent UN Good Offices Mission posts to be established simultaneously at all those important points being used for the transfer of armed individuals, weapons, and ammunition, and particularly at those eight points specified by the Republic of Afghanistan. Otherwise, no reduction will occur in these transfers, and the wave of weapons, ammunition, and armed individuals will continue crossing those regions where UN Good Offices Mission posts do not exist.

The spokesman expressed the hope that the United Nations—in line with its mission, on the basis of its authority, in accordance with the 43d UN General Assembly session resolution, and in line with the Geneva accords—will exert pressure on Pakistan not to oppose the stationing of permanent UN posts, at least in those regions outlined by the Republic of Afghanistan.

If Pakistan has nothing to hide, then why should it fear and prevent UN observation along border areas and routes? The stationing of permanent UN groups in only three border areas and leaving other dozens of routes open not only will not prevent interference and further aggression by Pakistan, but will only damage the dignity and prestige of the UN organization.

Soviet Convoy Battles Way Into Kabul

BK1404154889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1451 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] Kabul, April 14 (AFP)—The first trucks in a massive road convoy bringing supplies of food and fuel to the Afghan capital battled their way into Kabul Friday.

Some 85 trucks and petrol tankers passed safely through the Kabul checkpoint of the Salang highway, some carrying wounded, others with their windscreens shot out. Heavy firing, and columns of smoke from burned fuel trucks could be seen some 15 kilometers (nine miles) from the checkpoint, and helicopter gunships provided a constant escort for the trucks.

The convoy was the first to reach the capital in a week by the Salang road, which had been closed since April 6 by rebel mujahidin both north and south of the strategic tunnel through the mountains of the Hindu Kush.

Soviet sources said Thursday that the convoy, which set out from the Soviet border, consisted of 700 trucks. Truck drivers at the Kabul checkpoint said at least six trucks had been hit and destroyed Friday afternoon. The sources said the mujahidin had gained control of several government posts last week, but that government troops had recaptured them in a sweeping operation which reportedly ended Thursday allowing the first part of the convoy to proceed.

The Salang, or "lifeline" road, was patrolled and protected solely by Soviet troops before they left the country February 15.

Immediately after the withdrawal, Afghan President Najibullah said in a speech televised nationwide that one of his government's top priorities would be to keep the road open.

The Soviet Union is operating a simultaneous massive airlift of food to Kabul, most of it flour, with a fleet of Ilyushin transport aircraft. Sources at the airport say the Ilyushins are also carrying weapons supplies for the battles of Jalalabad and Khowst.

The same sources said Friday that Khowst, in Paktia Province, which has been under seige by the mujahidin for almost a week, could only be resupplied by airdrop. They said Jalalabad, a key eastern city 80 kilometers (48 miles) from Kabul, was being resupplied by helicopter.

The sources confirmed reports that Afghan troops had finally cleared a 22-kilometer (13-mile) stretch of the Kabul-Jalalabad road which had been mined by the mujahidin south of Sarowbi town midway between Kabul and Jalalabad.

The mujahidin ambushed a convoy of empty trucks returning from resupplying the Jalalabad defenders. They used the empty trucks to block the road along with the mines, they said.

Government spokesmen have said that military convoys have been able to reach the beseiged city by night.

Muajhidin Pressure on Jalalabad, Khowst Continues

BK1304161989 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin continue to exert pressure on Jalalabad and Khowst. They mounted artillery and rocket attacks on strategic points in the two cities. Kabul regime has confirmed reports about these attacks.

A delayed report from Afghanistan says 800 Kabul troops surrendered to the Afghan mujahidin on the 9th of this month in (Jharian) District of Herat Province.

Meanwhile, a spokesman of the Iran-based mujahidin has said the mujahidin are planning to carry out a fresh offensive near the capital, Kabul. The spokesman said the step to open a new battle front is part of continuous efforts to dislodge the puppet Kabul regime.

'Fierce Fighting' West of City

BK1404152589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] According to reports, fierce fighting is taking place between mujahidin and Kabul regime troops west of Jalalabad city. Kabul regime troops have launched a big offensive to restore traffic on the strategic Kabul-Jalalabad highway. Traffic on the Salang highway has been suspended for many days now due to the mujahidin attacks.

The reports also speak of fierce fighting between the mujahidin and Kabul regime troops in Laghman.

Violations of Ramadan Cease-Fire Reported

LD1304174289 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] The cease-fire announced by the Republic of Afghanistan to honor the beginning of Ramadan was violated yesterday in some regions of the country—in Nangarhar, Paktia, Laghman and Khowst—by groups linked to Pakistan. In other regions of the country, the cease-fire has been observed in general.

An authorized source in the Afghan Armed Forces told BAKHTAR military section that Jalalabad and its security in the suburbs were subject of artillery fire yesterday from Pakistan and groups linked to it. One soldier was wounded. In retaliation, the Afghan Armed Forces in Nangarhar Province attacked enemy trenches and strongholds which resulted in 35 enemy troops being killed and 38 wounded. One Pakistani and two Saudi mercenaries were among those killed. Four enemy rifles, two BM-14 units, one recoilless gun, one rocket launcher, one Sucur-30 unit, and 19 light weapons were destroyed.

According to another report a broad attack by Pakistani and Pakistani-linked groups in Khowst, which began a few days ago, continued yesterday. As a result of these attacks, which were supported by the Pakistani artillery, six soldiers were martyred and three civilians wounded. Two houses were destroyed. The Afghan Armed Forces retaliated and completely pushed back the enemy attacks on two fronts. As a result of the shattering blows by the Armed Forces, 185 troops of the Pakistani-invading Army and individuals linked to them were killed and 70 were wounded.

Notices 401-402 Handed Over to UN Mission

LD1404050189 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] Notes 401 and 402 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs concerning Pakistan's violations of the Geneva accords were handed over to UNGOMAP [United Nations Good Offices Mission on Afghanistan and Pakistan] in Kabul this morning.

The ministry details 23 open violations of Article 2, Document 1, which have taken place from 20-23 Hamal [8-11 April]. The notes give precise information to UNGOMAP. The ministry asks the delegation to assess these violations in accordance with Paragraph 7, Document 4 of the Geneva accords and to inform the Afghan side and the UN envoy of the assessment's results.

Bangladesh

Planning Minister Returns From Visit to China

BK1304130789 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] A team of Chinese experts will come to Dhaka soon for a joint study with Bangladesh experts on flood protection plans and water harnessing. This has been disclosed by Planning Minister H.A. Khandoker after attending a ministrial level meeting in Beijing.

The meeting reviewed the work earlier done by a committee of experts drawn from the two countries and asked the experts to carry out detailed studies on subjects involved. Besides formal talks with Chinese Water Resources Minister Yang Zhenhuai, the planning minister also visited different projects in China and studied the flood protection, irrigation, embankment, river draining, and other aspects of the flood problem. The next ministrial level meeting between the two countries will be held in Dhaka.

It may be mentioned that Bangladesh has set up bilateral bodies with India, Bhutan, Nepal, and China to study the flood problem. It has also sought assistance from countries like France and international organizations to help it tide over the perennial flood problem.

India

Spokesman on Nepal's Increase in Import Duties

BK1304161589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] Indian goods in Nepal will be marginally affected because of the latest hike in duties on Indian goods by the Nepalese Government. Making this observation in reply to a query by newsmen, an official spokesman said in New Delhi today that Indian Government has conveyed to Nepal about the discriminatory imposition of duties on Indian goods. The spokesman said that earlier excise duty on Indian products was collected by the Indian Government and reimbursed to Nepal.

Replying to a question, the spokesman said that no foreign mission based in Kathmandu has approached India for petroleum, oil, and lubricants. He denied that India is obstructing the movement of petroleum products to Nepal. He also said that India is in favor of negotiations with Nepal on these issues.

Statement on Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, USSR

BK1404023389 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1519 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Report on "Official Spokesman's Statement"]

[Text]

Sri Lanka

While announcing the withdrawal of some units of the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] on 1 January 1989, the Government of India had stressed that as the situation in the Northeast Province improves further, more troops would be withdrawn.

Over the last few days, IPKF force levels have been reviewed by the government in the light of the emerging situation in the Northeast Province and it has been decided that a further reduction in force levels is possible. Accordingly, additional units of the IPKF will be withdrawn in coming weeks.

In reply to a question as to what will be the number of IPKF troops to be withdrawn now, the spokesman said that at the moment we have no information about operational details, but there would be significant numbers involved.

In reply to another question regarding the Sri Lankan Government's offer of a cease-fire, the spokesman said that we were in a continuous process of dialogue with Sri Lankan Government and we would maintain this dialogue and see that decisions taken are acceptable to both parties to the agreement.

We are confident that the situation in the Northeast Province is looking better. In reply to another question, the spokesman said that anything that aids the peace process is welcome to us.

Afghanistan

We have seen continuing press reports based on statements made by certain sections of the Afghan mujahidin based in Pakistan about the so-called presence of Indian military personnel in Afghanistan.

We find these reports particularly puzzling because, quite apart from the detailed denial issued by us on 2 March where we categorically denied all such false and unfounded allegations and where we categorically stated that Indian pilots and technical personnel have never been engaged in providing any support whatsoever to Afghan Air Force or Afghan Government, we have no less an authority than the spokesman of the Foreign Office in Pakistan on record, confirming as recently as 5 April, that the Pakistani Government had no information about the "involvement" of Indian pilots or military personnel in the Afghan conflict as alleged by Peshawar-based Afghan rebel groups.

Additionally, we have seen press reports quoting Gulbuddin Hekamatyar, foreign minister of the so-called interim rebel Afghan Government, admitting that there were no Indian pilots bombing Afghan rebel positions. He is reported to have said that his group, amongst others, had heard about the possibility of Indian involvement, but that "on investigation we found it to be untrue."

USSR

The government welcomes President Gorbachev's announcement in London on 7 April 1989 of the decision of the Soviet Union to cease production from this year of enriched weapons-grade uranium. This is a major advance towards halting the nuclear arms race. The qualitative significance of this decision goes much beyond the quantities involved.

We hope that the Soviet initiative would lead to all nuclear weapon states agreeing to a complete cut-off in production of fissionable material for weapons purposes. India has for long advocated the cessation of production of weapons-grade fissionable material by all nuclear weapons states as constituting an important step towards halting the nuclear arms race.

We have piloted several resolutions on the subject in the UN General Assembly and have included it as an integral part of our three-phase action plan for the elimination of nuclear weapons.

It is a matter of particular satisfaction to us that in his speech in London the leader of one of the most important nuclear weapon states has reiterated the need to do away with the doctrine of nuclear deterrence and to completely eliminate nuclear weapons—objectives that constitute the very core of India's disarmament policy and duly reflected in the action plan.

Sharma Hosts Banquet for Polish Vice President

BK1404010089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] India has offered Poland its cooperation in promoting peace and development in the world. The country's appreciation of Poland's commitment to peace and disarmament was conveyed by the vice president, Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma, while speaking at a banquet hosted in honor of the visiting Polish vice president, Mr Tadeusz Szelachowski, in New Delhi this evening.

Dr Sharma emphasized the warm and friendly relations existing between the two countries. He appreciated Poland's support for Prime Minister Mr Rajiv Gandhi's action plan on nuclear disarmament.

Joint Ventures Agreement Signed With Cyprus

BK1304144389 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] India and Cyprus have agreed to set up joint ventures in third country markets. An agreement to this effect was signed in New Delhi today by the commerce minister, Mr Dinesh Singh, and the visiting Cypriot minister of industry and trade, Mr T. Nemitsas. It has been decided to establish a joint committee to help implement the agreement.

President Meets SRV General Vo Nguyen Giap

BK1404034689 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] The deputy prime minister of Vietnam, General Vo Nguyen Giap, called on the president, Mr R. Venkataraman, at Rashtrapati Bhavan [President's House] today. They discussed matters of mutual interest.

'Terrorists' Bomb Railway Track in Amritsar

BK1404094389 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] In Punjab, terrorists blew up 8 feet of railway track on the Tarn Taran-Patti section in Amritsar District last night.

A PTI report quoting Tarn Taran police chief, Mr Sanjeev Gupta, says a group of terrorists blew up the track using plastic explosives. Police recovered fuse wire from the spot.

Terrorists also shot dead two people in separate incidents elsewhere in the district last night.

A hardcore terrorist, Javinder Singh, arrested recently by the Jullundur police shot himself dead yesterday when he was being taken to a suspected extremist hideout in the district.

Shipyard Builds First Patrol Vessels for Navy

BK1404095389 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] For the first time Hindustan Shipyard Limited [HSL] at Vishakhapatnam has started building warships. The first of the four patrol vessels being built for the

Indian Navy will be launched next month and the second one will be ready in August this year. Preliminary work for building a landing craft for the Navy has also been taken up.

The chairman-cum-managing director of HSL, Rear Admiral, Retired, H.C. Bindra, disclosed this in Vishakhapatnam.

AIR [All India Radio] correspondent, Mahavir Prakashi, reports that the shipyard has stepped up production of massive off shore oil platforms. The turnover this year is estimated at 50 crore rupees, which is 5 times that in 1987. It will also help in the saving of of substantial foreign exchange.

Correction to President Calls Visit 'Successful'

The following correction pertains to the headline of the item "Greek President Calls Visit 'Successful,'" published in the South Asia section of the 13 April DAILY REPORT on page 51, column one:

The headline should read: "Cypriot President Calls Visit 'Successful'"... (changing word "Greek" to "Cypriot")

The subslug should read: "Statement by Cypriot President Yeoryios Vasiliou ..." (changing word "Greek" to "Cypriot")

Iran

Khamene'i Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons

LD1404112589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] The rites of religious-political Friday prayers were held at Teheran University under the leadership of Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Seyyed 'Ali Khameni'i.

The monotheist and faithful people of Tehran along with their compatriots throughout the country were present today at Tehran University and in the adjacent streets to hold the Muhammadan rites of Friday prayers on the first Friday of the blessed month of Ramadan.

Referring to the need to observe piety in all aspects of life and the need for Muslims to pay increasing attention to the Koran in the blessed month of Ramadan, the Friday prayers leader of Tehran began his sermon by saying: In this blessed month, the month of the Koran's revelation, Muslims must read the verses of the Koran and observe its divine instructions.

Regarding the Iran-Iraq peace talks, which are to be held in the near future between the officials of the two countries' foreign ministries, the chairman of the Supreme Defense Council said: International officials must pay attention lest these talks prove fruitless. The world and the two nations must not be kept waiting.

Mr Khamene'i added: There must be seriousness in the talks. Unfortunately, the Iraqi regime does not take the talks seriously. It appears that arriving at a lasting peace is not a serious objective for the Iraqi regime. We warn the officials of the United Nations who are active in this field.

The president of the Republic stressed: If the Iraqi regime is serious in peace talks, then the first step toward this end is to withdraw from the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran and to the internationally recognized borders.

Mr Khamene'i said: We are serious about these talks. When we were determined to continue the war we were serious about that too; and today we are serious about arriving at a lasting peace in the region. However, the Iraqi regime was telling lies when it claimed that it wanted peace, and today when it claims that it wants talks, it is telling lies. This runs precisely counter to the confidence and assurance that must dominate the atmosphere of the talks. The Iranian nation waits to see what the result of the next round of talks will be. These talks must arrive at a clear and determined result.

The chairman of the Supreme Defense Council stressed: The Foreign Ministry and the foreign minister personally are trusted by the leader, by the officials and the people of Iran. They must take part in the talks relying on the confidence of the people.

Referring to the recent message of the imam of the ummah to the supervisor of the Islamic Propagation Organization [sazeman tablighat-e eslami] Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Khamene'i explained the various dimensions of the message of the imam.

In conclusion, he referred to the anniversary of the Islamic Republic of Iran army and praised the sacrifices of Army personnel during the 8 years of sacred defense. He also expressed his sorrow over the Sistan floods.

Konarev To Discuss Majlis Speaker's Moscow Visit

LD1304173689 Tehran IRNA in English 1614 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] Tehran, April 13, IRNA—The Soviet minister of roads, Nikolay S. Konarev, is to head a ranking delegation to Tehran on April 20 to prepare preliminaries on the future visit of Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to Moscow.

The Soviet Ambassador Vladimir Gudev announced the above today in a meeting with Deputy Foreign Minister for European and American Affairs Mahmud Va'ezi.

Konarev who is also the chairman of Tehran-Moscow joint commission will hold talks with Iranian officials on bilateral economic, technical, trade and industrial relations.

Deputies ministers of transport and gas as well as a number of other senior officials will accompany Konarev.

Va'ezi said Iran attaches special importance to Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit to Moscow. Such meetings, he noted, will be fruitful in the interest of the two nations.

Also discussed at the meeting was latest developments on the enforcement of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598, Afghanistan issue, as well as the situation in Lebanon and the Middle East.

Editorial Examines Montazeri's Resignation

PM1304134489 Tehran KEYHAN HAVAI in Persian 5 Apr 89 pp 2, 31

[Editorial by unidentified correspondent: "The Future Leadership and What Is Best for the Regime"]

[Excerpts] The issue of leadership for the Islamic regime and its onerous and important responsibility has been clearly defined in Islamic texts and in the Constitution. The insistance on this crucial and onerous responsibility stems from the fact that leadership in Islam is like the main pole of a tent, the main axis of stability. If an unqualified person takes over, the stability of society undoubtedly becomes an impossibility. [passage omitted]

The fact is that over the past 2 years many of those who attended to the Islamic revolution have witnessed with reservations the positions adopted by Ayatollah Montazeri. They have not criticized his actions and positions in order to maintain unity within the revolution and out of respect for his position as deputy leader, and more important, because of the imam's presence as the undisputed leader of the revolution—bearing in mind the imam's wisdom with regard to the actions and positions taken by various people in the country.

They only complained in private conversation, in small circles, among familiar friends. Of course, in the imam's messages and speeches, some things were said in a subtle way to criticize Ayatollah Montazeri, and this was understood by those aware of the situation. [passage omitted]

One look at the actions of Ayatollah Montazeri in the past few years shows his indifference toward the imam's advice, which had unpleasant consequences for him as an Islamic scholar and for his position as deputy leader. Those who surrounded him during these years included some disreputable people such as Mehdi Hashemi and his circle.

Despite the imam's warning to Ayatollah Montazeri about the counterrevolutionary nature of this group, they continued to enjoy the ayatollah's support.

Even after Hashemi was arrested, the ayatollah's support continued for some time until Hashemi confessed to murder and other counterrevolutionary actions. Then the support stopped or, rather, decreased, and was directed instead toward some of Hashemi's relatives and collaborators. This support still continues. [passage omitted]

Being influenced by those around you is one of the dangers of leadership—and something to which unfortunately Ayatollah Montazeri was not immune. This nullified his leadership capability and led to actions that conflicted with the goals of the revolution.

These actions included: sympathy and kindness toward members of hostile groups; lenience toward, and even support for, the liberals; support for the whole Mehdi Hashemi issue, making internal issues bigger than important matters facing the revolution; voicing undue criticism of officials; expressing opinions on subjects that were not really within his sphere of competence and which should have been dealt with by experts; and so forth. These show to some extent the contradictory nature of his action, in contrast with the ideals of the revolution.

These positions and the actions taken by the ayatollah caused the imam to start criticizing him in his message to the refugees of the imposed war and in a personal letter on 26 March 1989.

In these statements the imam stressed the interests of Islam and the sensitivity of the role of leadership, and gave his own views on the ayatollah's lack of qualifications for the onerous and difficult responsibilities of leadership.

Following the announcement of the imam's position, Ayatollah Montazeri wrote a letter to the imam expressing his feelings for the imam, asking to be allowed to step down from the position of deputy leader. [passage omitted]

Ayatollah Montazeri's letter to the imam shows his sincerity and his desire to do what is best for Islam and the revolution, as well as his continued intention to obey the leader. This is something that despite past mistakes, will always keep Ayatollah Montazeri in the favor of the imam, officials, and the people. [passage omitted]

The leader of the revolution has once again asked Ayatollah Montazeri to be more careful about those who surround him, to stop the comings and goings of the counterrevolutionaries who visit him. The importance of the imam's insistence on cleansing the ayatollah's home of corrupt elements becomes understandable when you consider the disappearance of confidential documents from this house.

So far many important and confidential documents have been taken by infiltrators and smuggled out of the country to become useful propaganda for the enemies of

the revolution. The fact that many confidential documents relating to Ayatollah Montazeri have found their way abroad, through various people staying at the ayatollah's home, shows the necessity to purge the people around him.

The one determining factor in such events and decisions is to see what is good for Islam and the Islamic regime. This is something that was clearly outlined in both Ayatollah Montazeri's letter and the imam's reply. What is important is that the resignation of the ayatollah from the post of deputy leader is exactly and definitely in the interest of Islam, bearing in mind some of his most obvious weaknesses related to this vital role. This is something on which both the imam and Ayatollah Montazeri agree.

RESALAT Views Montazeri's Resignation

NC1404093389 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 29 Mar 89 pp 1, 8

[Ahmad Azari-Qomi editorial: "The Interests of the System and Words of Sincerity"]

[Text] He is the God who sent His messenger with His guidance and a faith to win over all faiths, much to the polytheists' dislike. God Almighty thwarts the plots of the enemies of Islam one after the other and each day He manifests more the grandeur of the revolution, its lofty leadership, and the generous clergymen of Islam, despite the impure ideas of the enemies of Islam.

Yesterday, with the imam's decisive divine decree on the killing of Salman Rushdie—a tool in the hands of cultural imperialism—the world of blasphemy and reaction began to shake and saw that the fruit of its efforts against the Islamic Republic is being wasted and that the world of Islam is uniting with great grandeur.

Yesterday, when the world of arrogance wanted—with its sinister plans—to carry out aggression against the world of Islam, once again it was met with the firmness and decisiveness of the leader of the Islamic Republic whose only thoughts are about God, the messenger of Islam, and the Koran. It was again strongly shaken and forced into a disgraceful surrender. And the grandeur of the Muslims grew.

Today, also, the wisdom and sincerity of the great leadership and the virtue and purity of the dear wayfarer put an end to another plot by the enemy, taking all the imperialist news agencies by surprise.

Today the great leadership, with a world of love for God, Islam, and the interests of Muslims, adopted a divine and Islamic approach to Ayatollah Montazeri, the "product of his life," who can justly be described as the best manifestation of wisdom, jurisprudence, and virtue. And this valuable wayfarer, with a world of purity and sincerity, displayed his deeply-rooted devotion to Islam, the Koran, and the interests of the Muslims.

Frankly speaking, where else in history but in the life of the prophets has there been such greatness when one sacrifices, like Abraham, the product of one's life to one's deity and for the interests of one's religion?

Where in history can there be a child with such devotion who, like Ishma'el, goes to the altar of love to be sacrificed for the sake of the divine interests of the Muslims, uttering the beautiful words of "do what God commands"?

Yes, this act by this great father and his virtuous child has etched an outstanding memory on the spectacular Islamic revolution. This memory will never be erased from the history of the revolution and will make the leadership's face shine more and the faces of the wayfarers and clergymen more visible.

These are all among the beautiful and valuable impressions left by the rule of the jurisconsult [velayat-e faqih] and by the Islamic clerics—impressions that will never be understood by the West's materialistic analysts. All these are the results of the blood shed by the marytyrs on the path of justice and in the struggles on the path of God—results that materialists will never be able to understand.

This has proven, more than any other time, that the rule of the jurisconsult considers Islamic rule to be higher than all principles such as praying, fasting, and the making the pilgrimage, and that he is prepared to offer the product of his noble life for the interests of the system.

It also proved that in the rule of the jurisconsult, one can sincerely overlook one's popularity and position for the sake of the interests of the divine system, not allow any fear into one's heart from the bigotry [tahajjor] of the foolish pseudo-religious and the ignorant enemies, and seek the love of God.

O you clergymen who are enamoured with Islam. Be proud that you, the Islamic ummah, have such a supporter. What has an ummah to fear with a supporter like yours? What fear has one of waves with a helmsman like Noah by one's side?

So, raise your voices in sincerity and say: "O God, keep Khomeyni until the revolution of the Mahdi [the hidden imam]." Tell the blind of heart, the wretched hypocrites, and the disgraced bigots [motahajjerin]: "Go and try to trap other birds, for the nest of the griffin is high."

This time also, God Almighty, the hand of the great father and the virtuous child has foiled the enemey's deceit. May the deceits and ploys of the enemy turn against themselves for "God is swifter to plan." [Koranic verse]

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI on Afghanistan
LD1304101189 Tehran IRNA in English 0950 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] Tehran, April 12, IRNA—Fresh Zionist crimes in occupied Palestine and the situation in Afghanistan was taken up by the Persian daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI today.

The paper believed that only Muslim unity, no matter what desparate measures the enemies adopt, will ensure victory in both the oppressed Islamic lands.

It said, the restricting of assemblies of Muslims in mosques in occupied Palestine following the advent of blessed Ramadan indicates that the Zionists have comprehended the magnitude of the issue.

"The enemy's decision also reflects the power of the Islamic movement in the occupied land, at the threshold of the International Al-Quds day for world Muslims to voice their hatred of the Zionists," said the paper.

Every year, the last Friday of fasting Ramadan is celebrated as "International Al-Quds day" following Imam Khomeyni's initiative a decade ago for the liberation of Islam's third holiest site.

The enemy fears the rising conscience of Muslims and is aware that the worldwide Islamic resurgence is stronger than the combined power of regimes which pretend to support the aspirations of Palestinians, which fact is a serious threat against Israel, said the daily.

It said, that Palestinian Muslims ignoring past and continuing politicized intrigues between certan pretenders to the idealistic struggle have firmed up their steps, and made it all too obvious that the Islamic movement in the occupied land is not in the hands of pretenders to leadership, or else it would long since had fizzled out or been compromised.

"Palestine will be liberated by devout Muslims and by the mighty hands which derive their power from faith and piety, and which fire on the most inherent enemies of God. A firing on the hearts of the enemies who have put shackles on God's creatures for perpetuating their illegal rule, and who do not miss an opportunity for crimes."

Turning to Afghanistan, JOMHUMRI-YE ESLAMI said that developments there are becoming "the focal point of attraction."

The exemplary resistance of Afghan Muslims although it has ousted the occupying troops, "should not be interpreted as having brought the Afghans to their eventual target," it cautioned.

Afghan resistance has now become more complicated rather than ended and obviously calls for their special vigilance, said the Persian daily.

It noted that today even the rancorous enemies of Afghans voice sympathy with the people of Afghanistan, with hardcore communists using all sorts of masks and even going to the Friday mass prayers in mosques amid tight security.

"The core of the problem in Afghanistan has remained basically unchanged: The confrontation of people with the sold-out mercenaries. And in the meantime, the enemies of Afghans are exploiting hypocrisy and making their presence felt on the scene in different masks in order to throw to the winds the product of the ten years of the struggle of the people of that country," added JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI.

The daily expressed concern over threats against the future of Afghanistan and called for united coordinated efforts to prevent the occurrence of an "impending catastrophe."

"Afghans did not launch a struggle in order to oust one enemy and substitute in its place another which operates more shrewdly. Those who offered their blood for the cause of the Islamic revolution in Afghanistan did so for ending all forms of foreign domination once and for all and for instituting a system independent of all foreign powers, a system succumbing to none and stretching a hand to no world power," it concluded.

Government Denounces Maronite Shelling in Lebanon
LD1304164189 Tehran IRNA in English 1613 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] Tehran, April 13, IRNA—A Foreign Ministry spokesman today termed bombardment of Lebanese residential areas by Maronite forces as "a concerted plot" hatched by global arrogance and Zionism to bring Lebanon under their domination.

The spokesman expressed deep concern over continued bombings of residential quarters, especially around the Islamic Republic's Embassy, and noted that it was a prelude to foreign interference in Lebanon. He called on all Muslims and freedom-lovers in Lebanon to fight against such plots.

Meanwhile IRNA's correspondent in Beirut reported that although areas around the Iranian Embassy have been bombed by Maronite forces, no embassy staff has been injured.

Tehran TV Notes Damage to Flooded Sistan Areas
LD1304204689 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1735 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Excerpts] During the past week Sistan region experienced one of the rarest floods of the Hirmand River. As a result of the flooding in that region, thousands of our compatriots were made homeless. The deprived people of that region also suffered extensive losses and damages. [passage omitted]

Following the floods, the relief work by teams and security personnel started nonstop on a 24-hour basis.

Although the dispersed nature of the population and the inaccessibility by air and water of the flooded region created some difficulties at first—particularly due to the extensive nature of the floods—gradually and as a result of their self-sacrificing efforts, the relief teams succeeded in transporting more than 100,000 flood victims by air and by land to safe places and housed them in more than 20 camps and nearly 4,000 tents.

In order to provide for the urgent needs of the Sistan flood victims, the leader and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran donated 2 billion rials and the Agricultural Bank also allocated 2 billion rials for loans with 1 percent interest in order to compensate the farmers for their losses. It was also announced that gradually the sum of 200 million rials of grants will also be given to the flood victims. [passage omitted]

According to estimates and in view of the fact that the majority of the people of that region live in villages, the damage sustained is enormous. So far, 30,000 hectares of arable land in the flooded area and thousands of livestock have been destroyed; 100 villages have been completely destroyed and 100 other villages have sustained more than 50 percent of damage.

Meanwhile, 2,000 residential units have been destroyed and about 10 billion rials of damage has been inflicted on agricultural land and installations. [passage omitted]

Leaders Said Trying To Mend Ties With West

TA1304174289 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] Citing informed sources within the ruling circle, our fellow strugglers have reported that the leaders of the Islamic Republic regime, despite their anti-Western propaganda, are secretly engaged in widespread efforts to mend their diplomatic relations with the West.

'Ali Akbar Velayati and 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani are among the supporters of rapprochement with Western countries.

According to our fellow strugglers, although the regime's hardline faction headed by Ahmad Khomeyni and 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi is not enthusiastic about the establishment of close ties with Western countries, it has no alternative but to agree with or keep silent toward those who want to establish relations with the West because members of this faction have realized that the regime is on the verge of collapse.

Sharp differences have also emerged in the cabinet in this respect.

Nepal

Agreement Signed With Tibet for Oil, Salt Supplies

BK1304153289 Kathmandu External Service in English 1415 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] In the context of the blockade imposed by India on Nepal and his majesty's government's effort to replenish essential commodities from the third countries, it is learned from the Ministry of Supplies that an agreement for the supply of petroleum products and salt has been signed between the Royal Nepalese Consulate General of Lhasa and the competent authority of the Tibet region of the People's Republic of China.

Pakistan

China To Cooperate in Minerals Exploitation

BK1404044889 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] China and Pakistan have agreed to cooperate in joint exploitation and undertaking of projects for development of chromite and other minerals in the Northwest Frontier project and Baluchistan.

This has been stated in the minutes of the talks signed in Islamabad today by the federal minister for natural resources, Mr Jahangir Badar, and the vice minister of China's geology and mineral resources, Mr Xia Guozhi.

China agreed to send experts to Pakistan and consider the possibility of a supply of credit for purchase of mining machinery.

The Chinese vice minister also had a meeting with the minister of state for water and power, Zafar Ali Shah, and reviewed cooperation in the field of water resources and minerals between the two countries.

3 Killed by 'Indiscriminate Firing' in Larkana

BK1304155889 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] A press note issued by the Larkana District magistrate today says three unknown persons entered a house in Larkana City today and opened indiscriminate firing killing three persons and injuring two others living in the house.

The commissioner, deputy inspector general of police, the district magistrate, and the commanding officer of the 29th Punjab Regiment immediately arrived on the scene. They also enquired about the injured in the hospital. Later (?a person) was arrested.

The law enforcing agencies have been fully alerted and search for the culprits is continuing.

Sri Lanka

Further on Unilateral Cease-Fire, Car Bombing

President Offers Talks

BK1304121289 Hong Kong AFP in English 1201 GMT 13 Apr 89

[By Amal Jayasinghe]

[Excerpt] Colombo, April 13 (AFP)—Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa offered talks with the dominant Tamil separatist group Thursday as violence during a government-declared ceasefire left 57 people dead, including 10 Indians.

Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne in a statement invited the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) on behalf of Mr. Premadasa for talks with the president in a bid to end continuing political killings.

Reacting to an LTTE letter rejecting the ceasefire as a ruse to get the separatists to surrender arms, Mr. Wijeratne said Mr. Premadasa's decision to announce a truce had been "misunderstood and pre-judged" by the LTTE.

The statement came as suspected Tamil rebels exploded a car bomb in the northeastern port town of Trincomalee Thursday killing 41 people and triggering ethnic tension in the area populated by majority Sinhalese and minority Tamils.

The powerful blast ripped through a crowded market in a Sinhalese area of Trincomalee as residents prepared to celebrate the Sinhalese and Tamil New Year Thursday, military officials in the area said.

"It is a pathetic sight. We found 38 bodies on the spot. Seven died at the Navy hospital," a military official told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, adding that an indefinite curfew was clamped on the town to prevent rioting.

Some 11 people had been wounded in initial rioting, but the situation was now under control, residents contacted by telephone said.

The officials said six shops caught fire and dozens were damaged in the morning explosion which wounded scores of people doing last-minute New Year shopping.

In a New Year message to the nation Thursday, Mr. Premadasa called for peace and reconciliation in his ethnically divided and strife-torn Indian Ocean island republic.

"We are capable of forgetting and forgiving. At this time of the year we must extend the hand of reconciliation to all," Mr. Premadasa said in the message issued before the bomb attack.

Security sources here said they suspected the LTTE of being behind the bomb blast. The group has been accused of similar attacks. [passage omitted]

LTTE, Other Parties Invited

BK1304132289 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] The LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] leadership has been invited for talks with the government on issues raised by the political wing of the LTTE.

Leaders of other political parties may also attend the discussion if the LTTE so wishes. Such an invitation has already been extended to the JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna—People's Liberation Front].

The minister for foreign affairs and state minister for defense, Ranjan Wijeratne, says the government has noted the open letter sent to the president dated 11th April purportedly from the political wing of the LTTE.

He says the contents of the appeal [for a cease-fire and dialogue] that has been made by the president seems to have been misconstrued and prejudged. [Words indistinct] replied to a statement from the JVP and honesty and sincerity of the president are stated to clear [as heard].

The minister says: We wish to reiterate that the government's only interest is to work for peace, unity, and goodwill amongst all citizens of this country. It is equally interested in removing any political, economic, or social injustices through concensus, consultation, and compromise as emphasized in the new UNP [United National Party] manifesto. What is imperative is a dialogue.

Mr Wijeratne hopes that the LTTE will realize that the desire of the Indian and Sri Lankan Governments is for the withdrawal of the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] from Sri Lanka. He wishes to repeat what he had said to the JVP leadership (?earlier). The lesson of history is clear. When the issue is [words indistinct] in internal conflict, the outsiders will reap the benefit.

67 Die During 'Cease-Fire'

BK1404100689 Hong Kong AFP in English 0859 GMT 14 Apr 89

[By Amal Jayasinghe]

[Text] Colombo, April 14 (AFP)—Peace prospects are dim in Sri Lanka despite a unilateral government ceasefire intended to end ongoing political violence that has left 67 people dead in two days, analysts said here Friday.

Anti-government Sinhalese and Tamil rebels have rejected a peace package announced by President Ranasinghe Premadasa and continued their spree of violence, shattering the week-long truce which went into effect Wednesday.

The ceasefire was part of a package which included a general amnesty and parliamentary representation for militants joining mainstream politics in an attempt to end continuing bloodletting in the island nation.

"The government will find the ceasefire a very frustrating exercise and they will take to more oppressive action at the end of it," said a left-wing opposition MP [member of Parliament], Vasudeva Nanayakkara.

Tamil militants Thursday [13 April] exploded a powerful car bomb in the northeastern port town of Trincomalee, killing 44 people and triggering more tension between the majority Sinhalese and minority Tamil communities.

A Tamil police sub-inspector was chopped to death in a Sinhalese backlash of violence in the area, where Indian troops deployed under a 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord are responsible for law and order.

Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne Friday said the bomb attack, which "literally blew people into pieces," was aimed at driving out Sinhalese residents from Trincomalee.

Earlier, hours after the ceasefire got under way, the dominant Tamil separatist group Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) set off a landmine under an Indian Army truck in northern Wanni region, killing 10 soldiers. The LTTE lost two men in an ensuing gunbattle.

Defence officials said violence related to the Sinhalese rebel group, the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP or People's Liberation Front), has left at least 10 people dead since Wednesday [12 April] in Sinhalese populated areas where the group has its strongholds.

Mr. Nanayakkara, who heads the Nava Sama Samaja (New Equal Society) Party (NSSP), said the truce might however heighten divisions within the JVP, which in 1971 led a youth rebellion that left more than 10,000 dead.

Political analysts believe that the JVP is in a position of strength, able to stage successful strikes that have often paralysed Sri Lanka and carry out guerrilla attacks.

"In the present circumstances, it is very unlikely that any important JVP leader or significant numbers would respond to the government offer" to surrender, an analyst here said.

Mr. Wijeratne said Sinhalese residents in Trincomalee were convinced that a Tamil political party, the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF), was responsible for the car bomb, but Indian Army commanders were blaming the LTTE.

"This is an attempt to frighten Sinhalese away from Trincomalee," Mr. Wijeratne said, after visiting the site. "It is foolish. It will not work."

Mr. Nanayakkara said he believed the car bomb was engineered by the LTTE, which has repudiated the 1987 peace accord and is waging a bloody bush war against some 50,000 Indian troops in the island's northeast.

The EPRLF, which is among the five other major Tamil groups that have accepted the accord, is LTTE's arch rival and controls the Trincomalee-based Northeastern Provincial Government.

"The LTTE is hell bent on creating communal clashes. To blame the EPRLF is part of a well planned conspiracy by the LTTE and sections of the government and even some in the Sri Lankan police to block the devolution of power to the (EPRLF) provincial council," Mr. Nanayakkara said.

The provincial administration was created in line with the 1987 peace accord, which sought to end Tamil separatism by giving more autonomy to the island's Tamil minority across the north and east.

Both the LTTE and the JVP are opposed, for different reasons, to the peace pact. The LTTE wants a separate Tamil state called Eelam in the northeast, while the JVP says it wants to establish a socialist government in Sri Lanka.

But the country's mainstream left-wing parties challenge the JVP, calling it a fascist organization and labled the LTTE a racist movement. Many of victims of JVP violence during the past two years have been leftists backing the peace accord.

Foreign Secretary in New Delhi for Consultations
BK1304163689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the death toll in the bomb blast in the northeastern port city of Trincomalee has gone up to 42. Fifty-four people are injured in the blast, which took place in the clock tower area this morning. The killed included both Tamils and Sinhalese.

The bomb, hidden in a car, went off as the residents were preparing to celebrate the Sinhalese and Tamil New Year. At least five shops were gutted in the incident.

A curfew has been clamped in the town and PKF [Peacekeeping Force] is keeping a close watch on the situation. Some militant organizations are suspected to be behind the blast. The situation in the town is reported to be tense.

In the Vavuniya sector, seven peacekeeping force personnel have been killed in an encounter. An official spokesman told newsmen in New Delhi today, that the peacekeeping force apprehended four Tamil militants in the Trincomalee sector.

The Sri Lanka foreign secretary, Mr Bernard Tillakaratne, arrived in New Delhi as a special envoy for bilateral consultations. An official spokesman told newsmen in New Delhi that the Sri Lankan foreign secretary is here as part of the ongoing consultations. He is expected to discuss with Indian officials a wide range of issues.

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